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ABSTRACT

The report examines progress made over the last 20 years in expanding the opportunities for educational attainment of young adults from different family income backgrounds. Based on data from published reports of the Census Bureau, the study examined high school graduation, college matriculation, and baccalaureate degree attainment rates for 18- to 24-year-olds from the four quartiles of the family income distribution over the last two decades. The results are detailed for males, females, Whites, Blacks, Hispanics, and by public/private collegiate enrollment, and full-time/part-time status. The study reports very large differences in educational progress between students from low and high family income backgrounds, and these disparities are viewed as being persistent, pervasive, and growing. Data presented in numerous figures and tables provide information in many areas including: (1) marriage and high school graduation; (2) college participation of unmarried high school graduates; (3) baccalaureate degree attainment; (4) college participation behaviors; (5) enrollment by status; and (6) college participation rates by gender, race, and ethnicity. Other reports of the American College Testing reports are also listed. (GLR)

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90-3

High School Graduation and College Participation of Young Adults by Family Income Backgrounds 1970 to 1989

Thomas G. Mortenson
Zhijun Wu

HE 023 878

September 1990

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HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AND COLLEGE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG ADULTS BY FAMILY INCOME BACKGROUNDS
1970 TO 1989

Thomas G. Mortenson
Zhijun Wu

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This study is based largely on published data. However, the Census Bureau staff who prepare the data for publication assisted us in this study by sharing prepublication copies of the key tables used here. In particular we wish to thank Paul Siegel, Chief of the Education and Social Stratification Branch, and Wendy Bruno, from his staff, for sharing the data and counseling us on some of its limitations.

We also wish to thank Dennis Carroll, Chief of the Longitudinal Studies Branch of the National Center for Education Statistics, for a special analysis of the High School and Beyond data file that enabled us to extend and in some respects to complete our analysis.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AND COLLEGE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG ADULTS BY FAMILY INCOME BACKGROUNDS
1970 TO 1989

Summary of the Study

This study examines and compares educational progress and attainment among 18 to 24 year olds from different family income backgrounds. Patterns and trends in high school graduation, college participation, and baccalaureate degree attainment are examined for young adults by gender and race/ethnicity over the last two decades. College participation behaviors are further analyzed by the years of higher education completed, enrollment in public and private institutions, and full-time/part-time enrollment status—all by quartiles of family income based on data collected in the Current Population Survey.

Since 1965 the federal government has been committed in policy and through appropriations to improving educational opportunities for children and young adults from low family income backgrounds. Principally through Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, and Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, Congress has appropriated billions of dollars annually in an attempt to improve and equalize educational opportunities for economically disadvantaged populations.

Twenty five years after the inauguration of major federal initiatives to address inequality of educational opportunity, this study finds very large differences in educational progress between students from low and high family income backgrounds. At every level of educational advancement from high school graduation through college matriculation and graduation, young adults from low family income backgrounds are far less likely than are young adults from high family income backgrounds to advance in the educational system.

The disparities in educational advancement between young adults from low and high family income backgrounds are very large, pervasive, persistent, and growing. They are very large because their cumulative effects mean that a student from a high family income background has eight to thirteen times greater chance of having a baccalaureate degree by age 24 than does a student from a low family income background. They are pervasive because these disparities affect males, females, whites, blacks, and Hispanics alike. They are persistent because they have endured for the last two decades when major federal programs were in place to remedy them. And they are growing because the disparity in chances for earning a baccalaureate degree by age 24 between young adults from low and high incomes is greater during the second half of the 1980s than it has been at any time during the last two decades.

In light of the national commitment to equalize educational opportunities by assisting students from low family income backgrounds, the results of this study are profoundly unsettling.

Marriage

The years between 18 and 24 are years of transition between adolescence and adulthood. Traditionally, they involve higher education, marriage, and the beginnings of careers and new families. But over the last twenty years, an increasing share of young adults have chosen to defer marriage. As a result the proportion of the young adult population that is married has declined steadily, from 44 percent in 1970 to 25 percent by 1989. Although the population of 18 to 24 year olds was similar in 1970 (20.6 million) to the population in 1989 (20.5 million), the number who were married dropped from 9.1 million to 5.1 million. The decline in the marriage rate among young adults affects males, females, whites, blacks, and Hispanics, although not all groups are equally likely to be married. Females are most likely to be married, and blacks least likely over the last twenty years.

We have focused on the unmarried population in this study because it is the parents' income—not the married young adults' income—that is the primary basis of federal educational programs designed to assist students from low family income backgrounds. For the purpose of this study, we divided the population of unmarried high school graduates into quartiles of family income. In 1989, the bottom quartile included families whose incomes ranged up to $20,000. The second quartile ranged from $20,000 to $35,400. The third quartile ranged from $35,400 to $58,100, and the top quartile ranged upward from $58,100. There were the same number of unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates in each quartile-2,855,000 in 1989, with corresponding populations in prior years.

High School Graduation

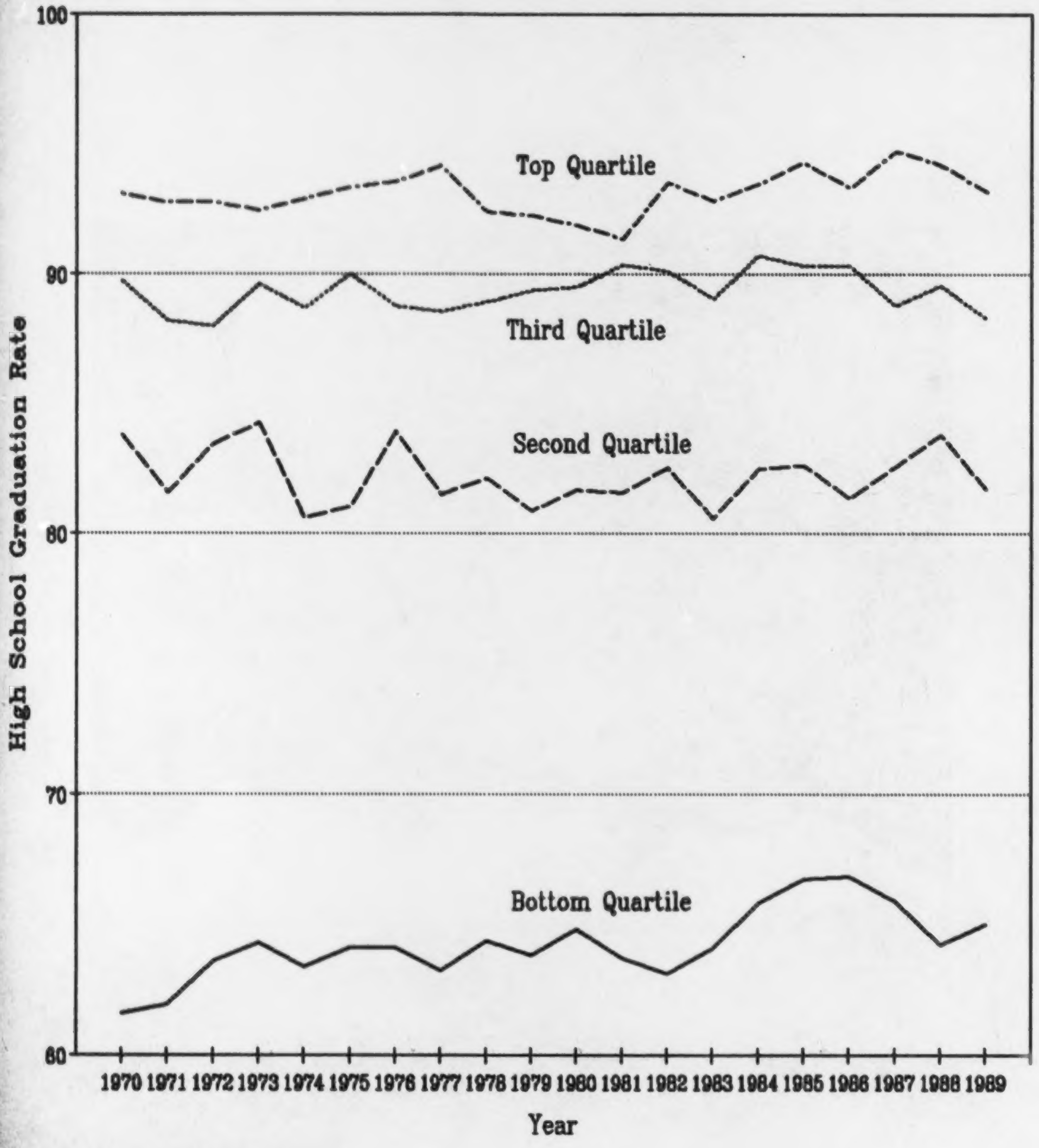
During the last twenty years the proportion of the unmarried 18 to 24 year old population that has graduated from high school has remained virtually flat at about 80 percent. (The proportion of the married population of 18 to 24 year olds that has graduated from high school has increased slightly from 75 to 78 percent.) Despite announced national goals to increase the high school graduation rate to 90 percent over the next ten years, the experience of the last two decades suggests it will take more than three centuries to achieve this goal.

The study finds large, pervasive, and persistent disparities in the high school graduation rates of students from different family income backgrounds. In 1989 an unmarried 18 to 24 year old from the top quartile of family income had a 93 percent chance to be a high school graduate, compared to an 88 percent chance for a person from the third quartile, an 82 percent chance from the second quartile, and a 65 percent chance from the bottom quartile. These percentages are similar to those for 1980 and 1970, as shown in Figure A, except in the bottom quartile where high school graduation rates have increased somewhat during the last two decades although this quartile became notably poorer.

The difference between the high school graduation rate for unmarried young adults from the top and bottom quartiles of family income has narrowed very slightly over the last twenty years, as shown in Figure B. Twenty years ago the gap was about 31 percent. For the last three years the gap has been about 29 percent, although around 1980 and again around 1986 the gap closed briefly to about 27 percent.

High school graduation rate patterns and trends varied by gender and race/ethnicity over the twenty year period of the study. Compared to the top quartile, low family income females and blacks made notable improvements in their high school graduation rates. No apparent progress was made by males, whites, or Hispanics during this period, however.

FIGURE A
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED 18 TO 24 YEAR OLDS
1970 TO 1989

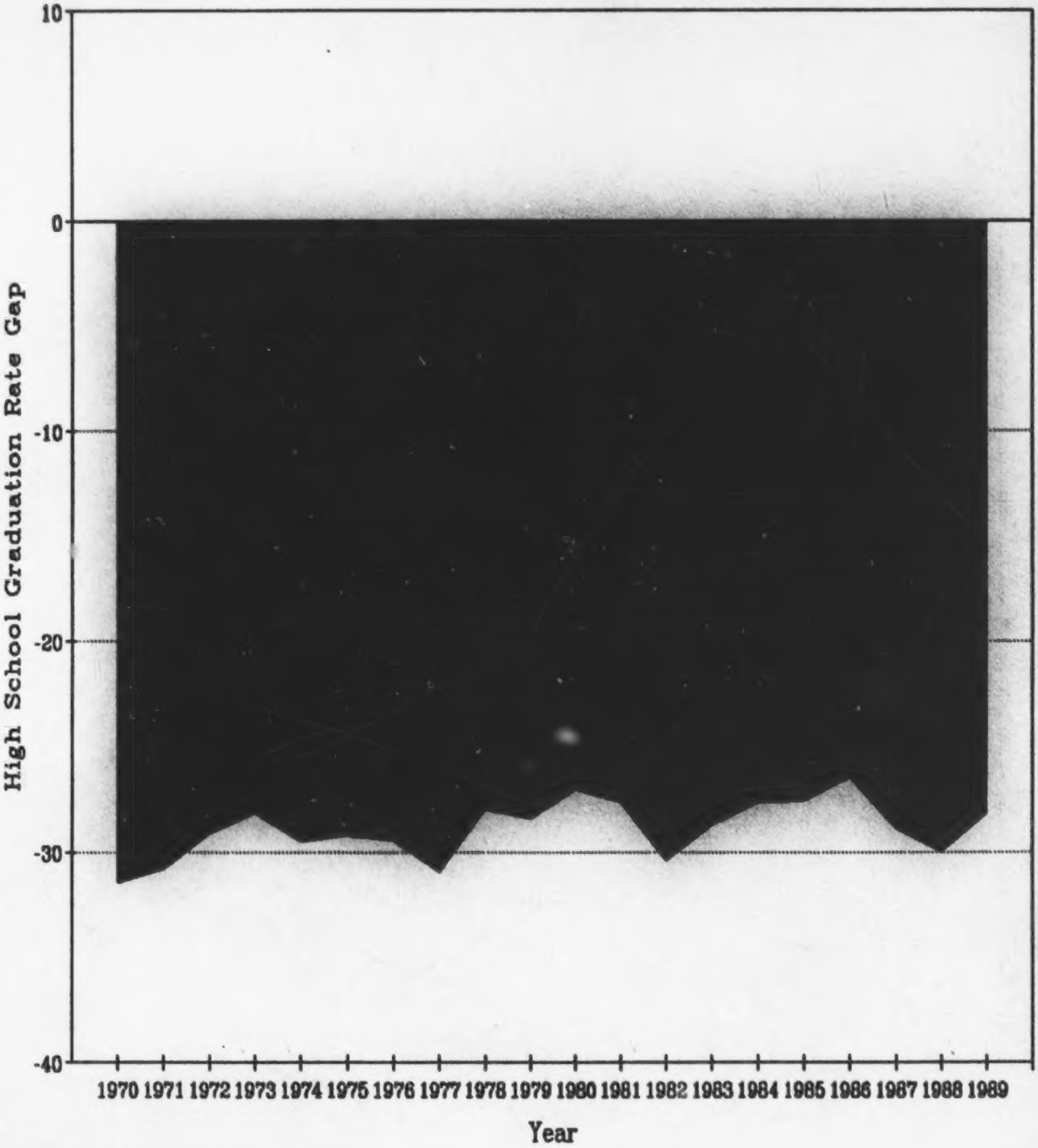


Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

FIGURE B

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE GAP FOR BOTTOM QUARTILE OF FAMILY INCOME FOR UNMARRIED 18 TO 24 YEAR OLDS

1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

College Participation

College participation. College participation rates for unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates started at 61.3 percent in 1970, and ended at 61.7 percent in 1989. However, in between these rates dropped to a low of 56 percent in 1979 before recovering to nearly 63 percent by 1988.

When the college participation rates were analyzed by family income quartiles, this study found large, pervasive, persistent, and growing disparities. In 1989, an unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduate from the top quartile of the family income distribution had a 78 percent chance to be enrolled or to have been enrolled in college. From the third quartile the student had a 67 percent chance, from the second quartile the chance was 56 percent, and from the bottom quartile the young adult had a 45 percent chance. These rates are shown in Figure C for the last twenty years. The decline in college participation rates during the 1970s affected each quartile level of family income as the labor market for college graduates weakened. But during the 1980s the market strengthened and college participation rates responded accordingly, although the response came sooner for young adults from higher family income backgrounds than it did from lower family incomes.

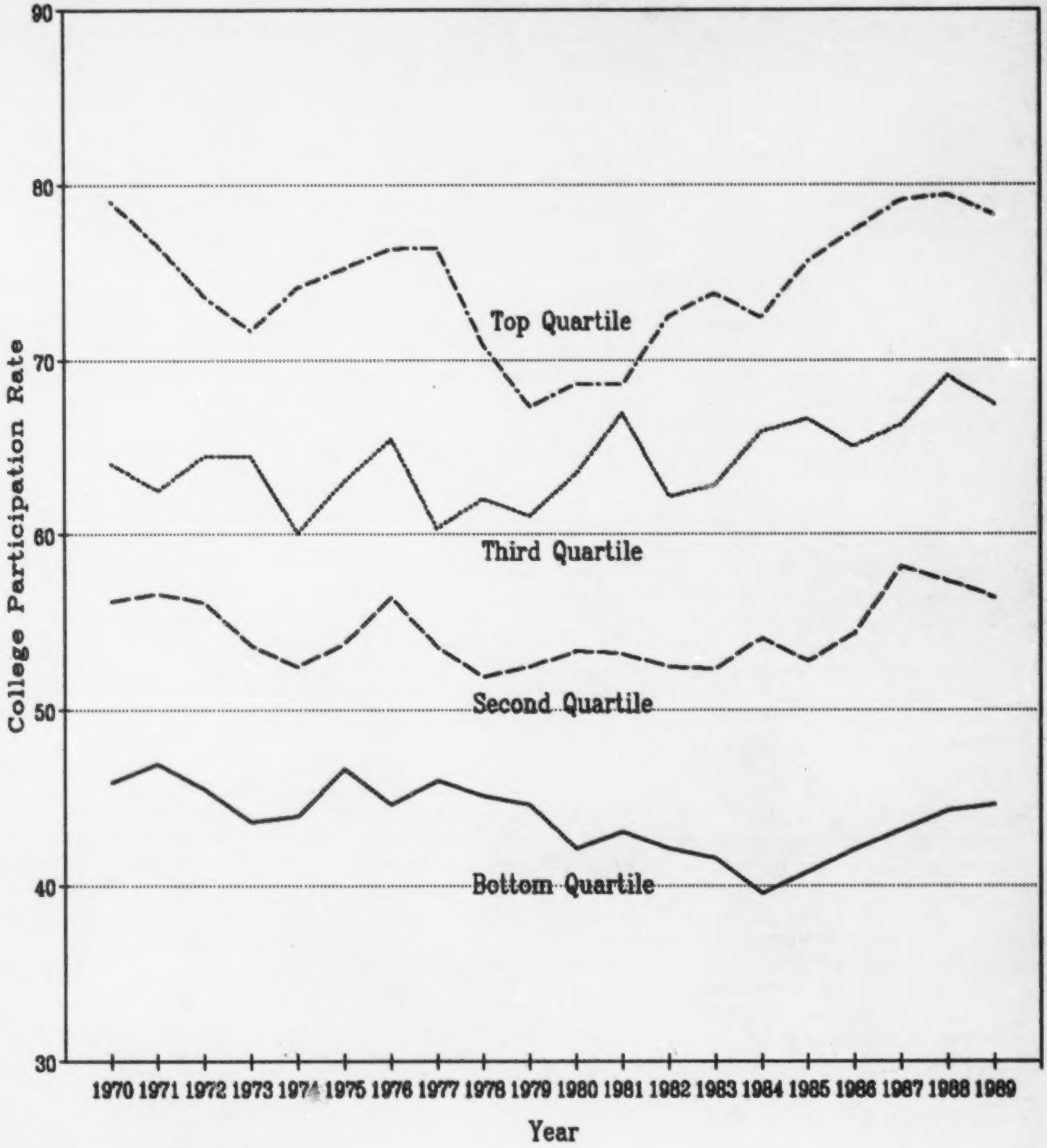
The disparity between the top and bottom quartiles narrowed between 1970 and 1979, then widened during the 1980s as shown in Figure D. In 1970 the college participation rate gap for the bottom quartile stood at 33 percent. By 1979 it had closed to 23 percent before reopening to 36 percent by 1987. Between 1985 and 1989, the disparity in the college participation of high school graduates from low and high family income backgrounds was greater than it had been at any time during the last two decades.

One way to understand the growing gap in higher educational participation between high school graduates from low and high family income backgrounds is to track the changes between 1979 and 1989 from the four quartiles of the family income distribution. Overall, college participation among unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates increased by 611,000 between 1979 and 1989. From the top quartile of family income, changes in college participation rates between 1979 and 1989 meant that 312,000 more young adults had or were attending college. From the third quartile 183,000 more were participating in college. From the second quartile 114,000 more were participating. But from the bottom quartile only 1,000 more were participating. This, despite equal sizes of family income quartiles of high school graduates.

Forms of participation. College participation for young adults takes three mutually exclusive forms in the Census Bureau's use: currently enrolled in college, no longer enrolled and having completed 1 to 3 years of college, and no longer enrolled and having completed 4 years or more of college. We have analyzed each of these behaviors by quartiles of family income as well.

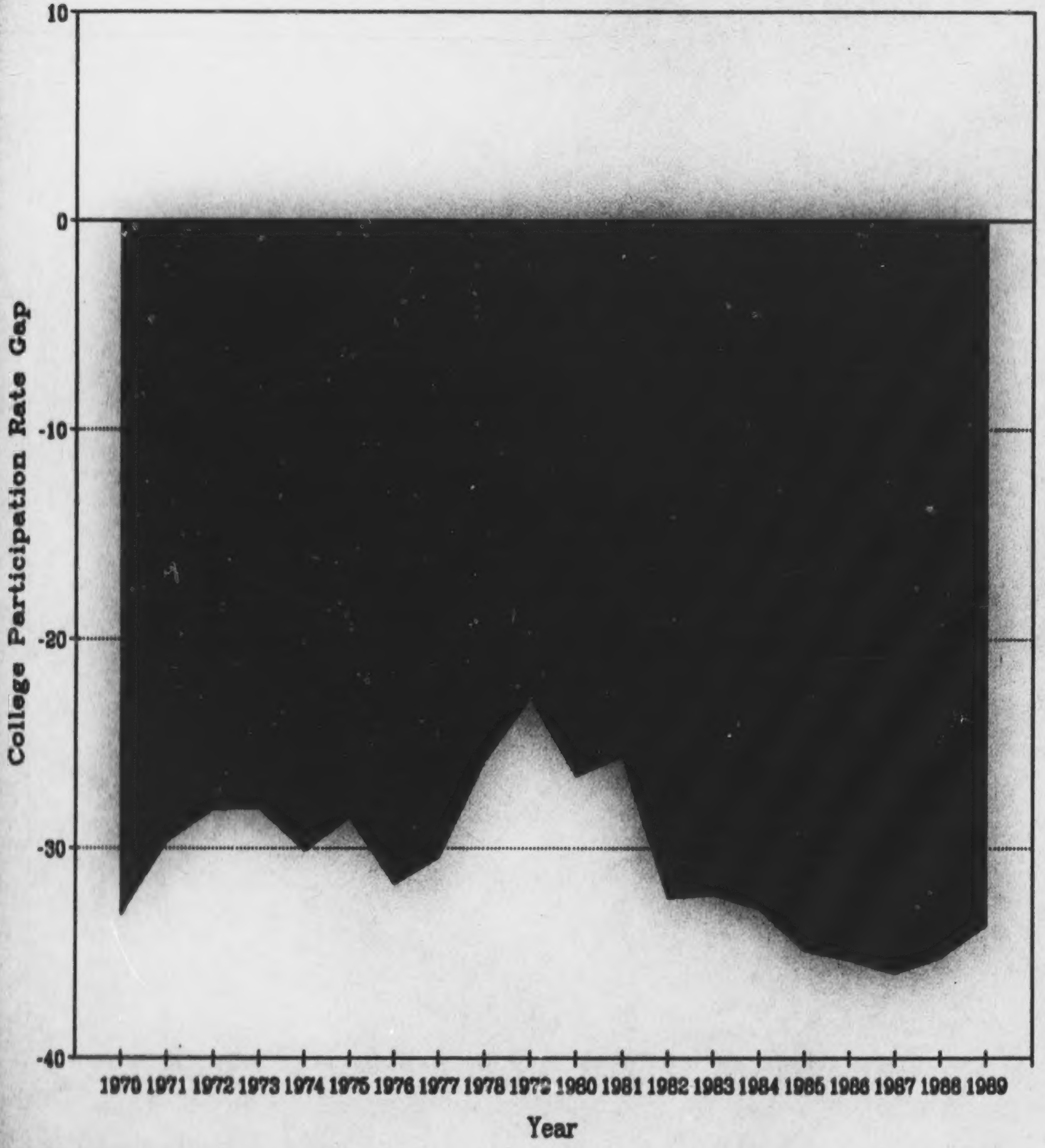
College enrollment rates for unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates are shown in Figure E. Enrollment is a subset of participation and therefore these rates are similar to but lower than participation rates. The strong relationship with family income is apparent again: the highest enrollment rates are at the highest income level, and the lowest enrollment rates are at the lowest level. Moreover, the gap in enrollment rates between high and low family income young adults narrowed slightly during the 1970s and has clearly widened during the 1980s as shown in Figure F.

FIGURE C
COLLEGE PARTICIPATION RATES BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED 18 TO 24 YEAR OLD HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES
1970 TO 1989



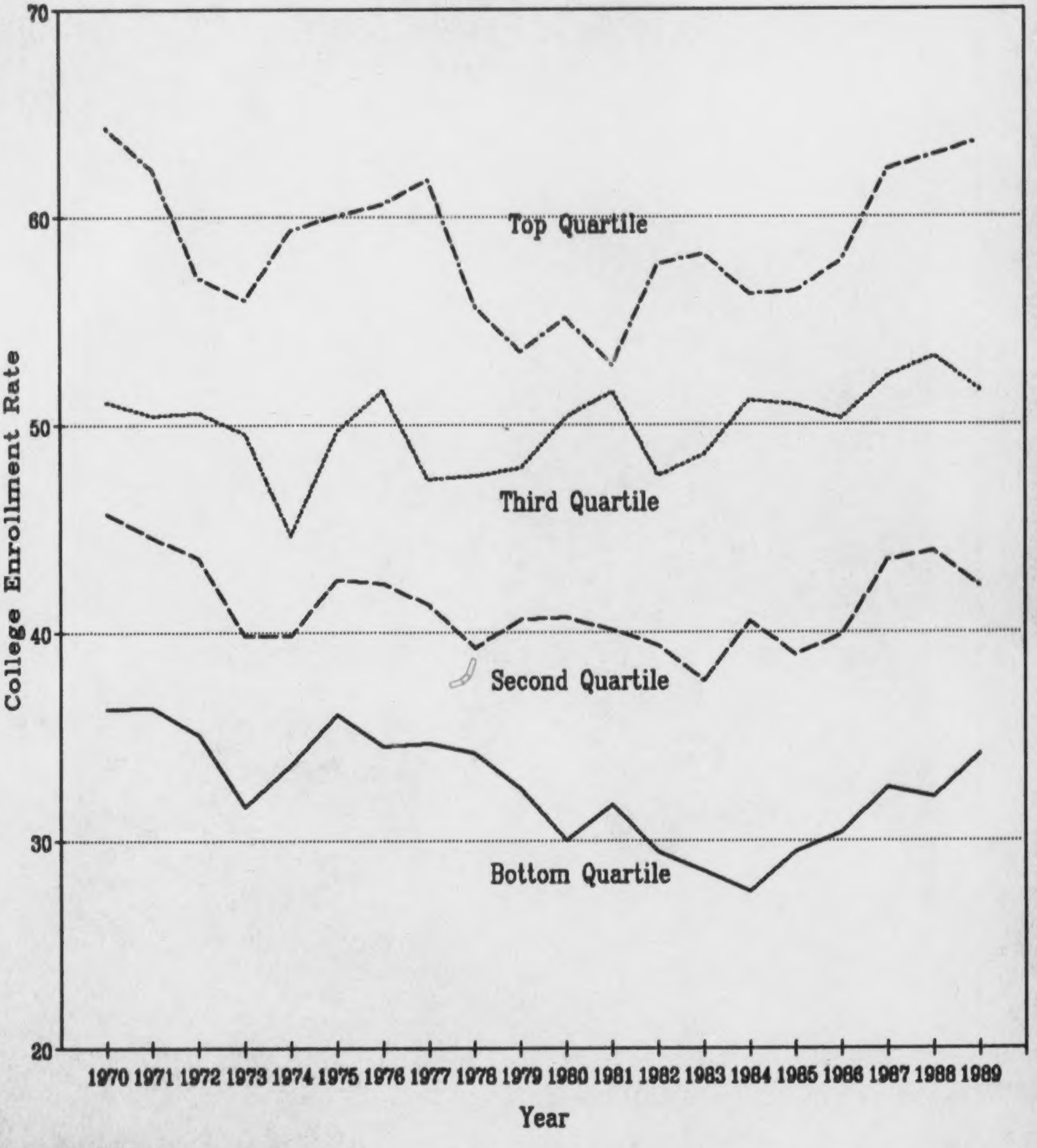
Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

FIGURE D
COLLEGE PARTICIPATION RATE GAP FOR BOTTOM QUARTILE OF FAMILY INCOME FOR UNMARRIED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES
1970 TO 1989



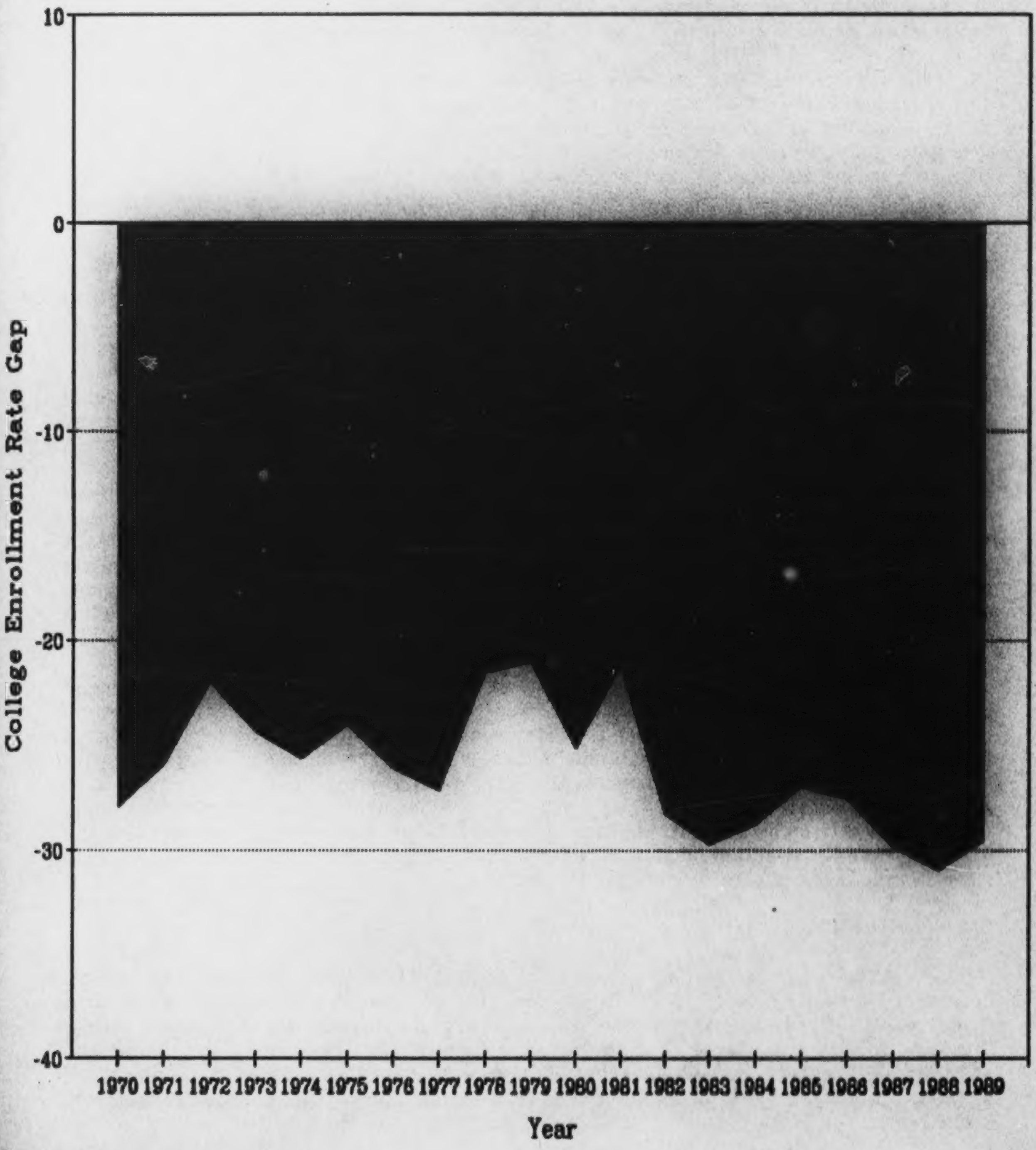
Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

FIGURE E
COLLEGE ENROLLMENT RATES BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AGE 18 TO 24
1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

FIGURE F
COLLEGE ENROLLMENT RATE GAP FOR BOTTOM QUARTILE OF FAMILY INCOME FOR UNMARRIED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES
1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

One to three years of college rates are difficult to express graphically, but the trends by quartile are important and shown in Figure G. The proportion of unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates from the bottom two family income quartiles that reported that they had completed one to three years of college and were no longer enrolled has increased during the last twenty years. Conversely, the proportion of top family income quartile young adults reporting this has decreased during the last two decades. Young adults from the bottom two quartiles are leaving higher education before obtaining their baccalaureate degree at an increasing rate, while those from the top quartile are leaving with 1 to 3 years of college at a decreasing rate.

Four year college completion rates for unmarried 18 to 24 year olds who are high school graduates are shown in Figure H by family income quartiles. These rates, like all rates calculated and graphed in this study, vary directly with family income: 4 year college completion rates are highest in the top quartile of family income and generally increased during the 1980s, and the rates are lowest and generally decreased during the 1980s in the bottom family income quartile. As a result, the gap in the four year college completion rates, which narrowed during the 1970s, widened sharply during the 1980s as shown in Figure I.

Enrollment by institutional control. Our data permit us to calculate public and private shares of higher educational enrollments by family income levels for the last twenty years. We have done so in Figure J for public institutions (the complement to which would be private higher educational shares from each quartile). In general, public higher educational institutions enroll somewhat larger shares of lower quartile students than they do shares of higher family income students. These results are consistent across the time series.

There is no overall trend in the bottom two quartiles. Public colleges enrolled about 82 percent from the bottom quartile, and 79 percent from the second quartile over the last two decades. In the top two quartiles, however, there was a small but significant shift in enrollments from private to public colleges. In the top quartile the trend is fairly consistent between 1971 and 1989. However, in the third quartile, where family incomes ranged between $35,400 and $58,100 in 1989, this shift has been more pronounced and has occurred entirely during the 1980s.

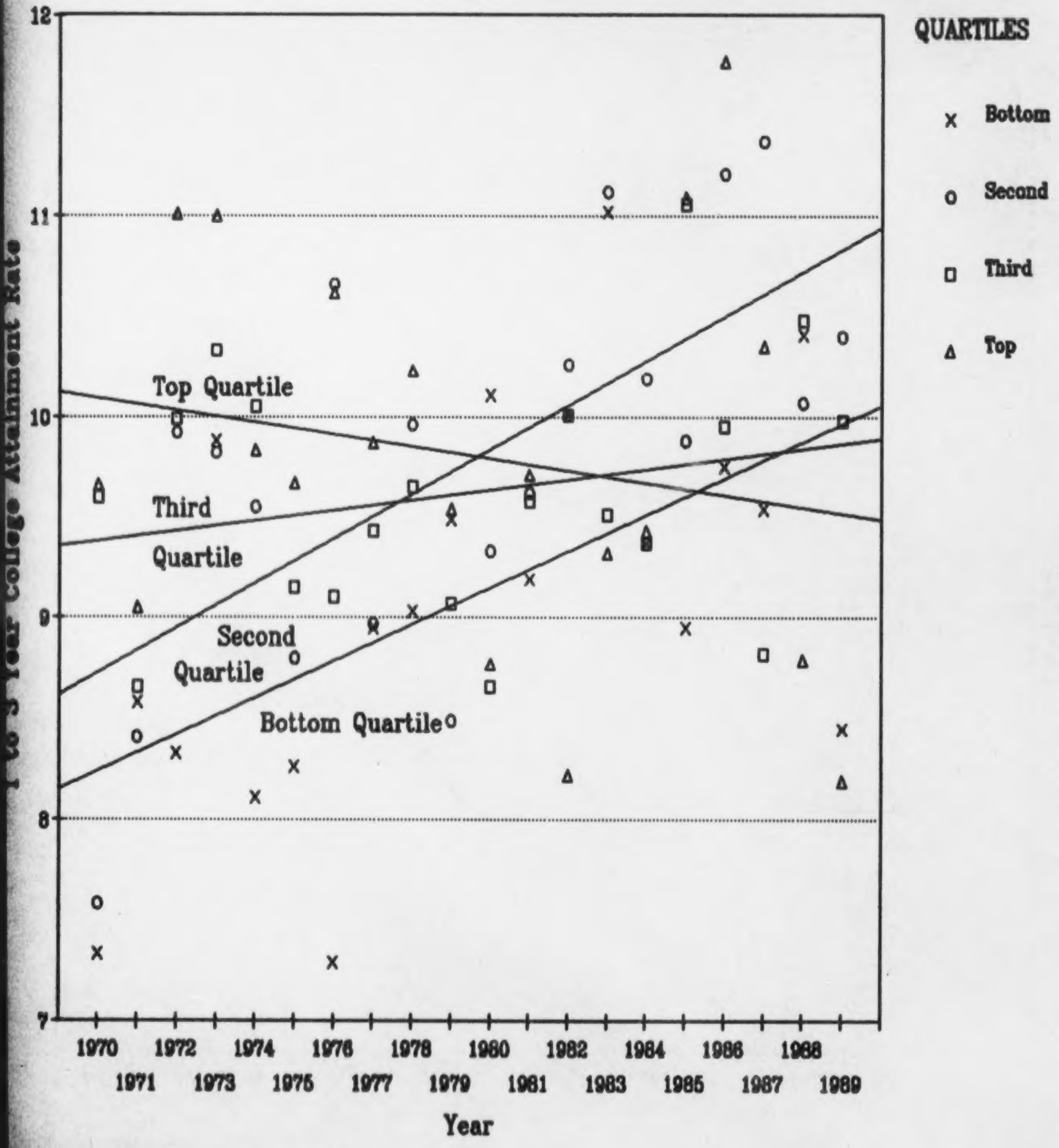
Enrollment by status. Among all income quartiles there has been a pronounced decrease in full-time college enrollment, and a corresponding increase in part-time enrollment in higher education, over the last twenty years. However, as shown in Figure K, the rate of change varies by family income, and in the direction consistent with everything reported elsewhere in this paper. Top family income quartile students have shifted least to part-time study, while bottom family income quartile students have made the greatest shift over the last twenty years. This shift to part-time study increases the length of time required to complete a baccalaureate program of studies, and thereby also increases the costs of obtaining such a degree.

Baccalaureate Degree Attainment

For those who start college, chances of earning a bachelor's degree by age 24 are, once again, directly related to family income. In this case we have used data obtained from the 1980 High School and Beyond study maintained by the Department of Education. The results, shown in Figure L, show the proportion of 1980 high school graduates who went to college that earned a bachelors degree by the spring of 1986 in what are approximately the family income quartiles used in this study. The chances range from about 21 percent in the bottom quartile, to 46 percent in the top quartile.

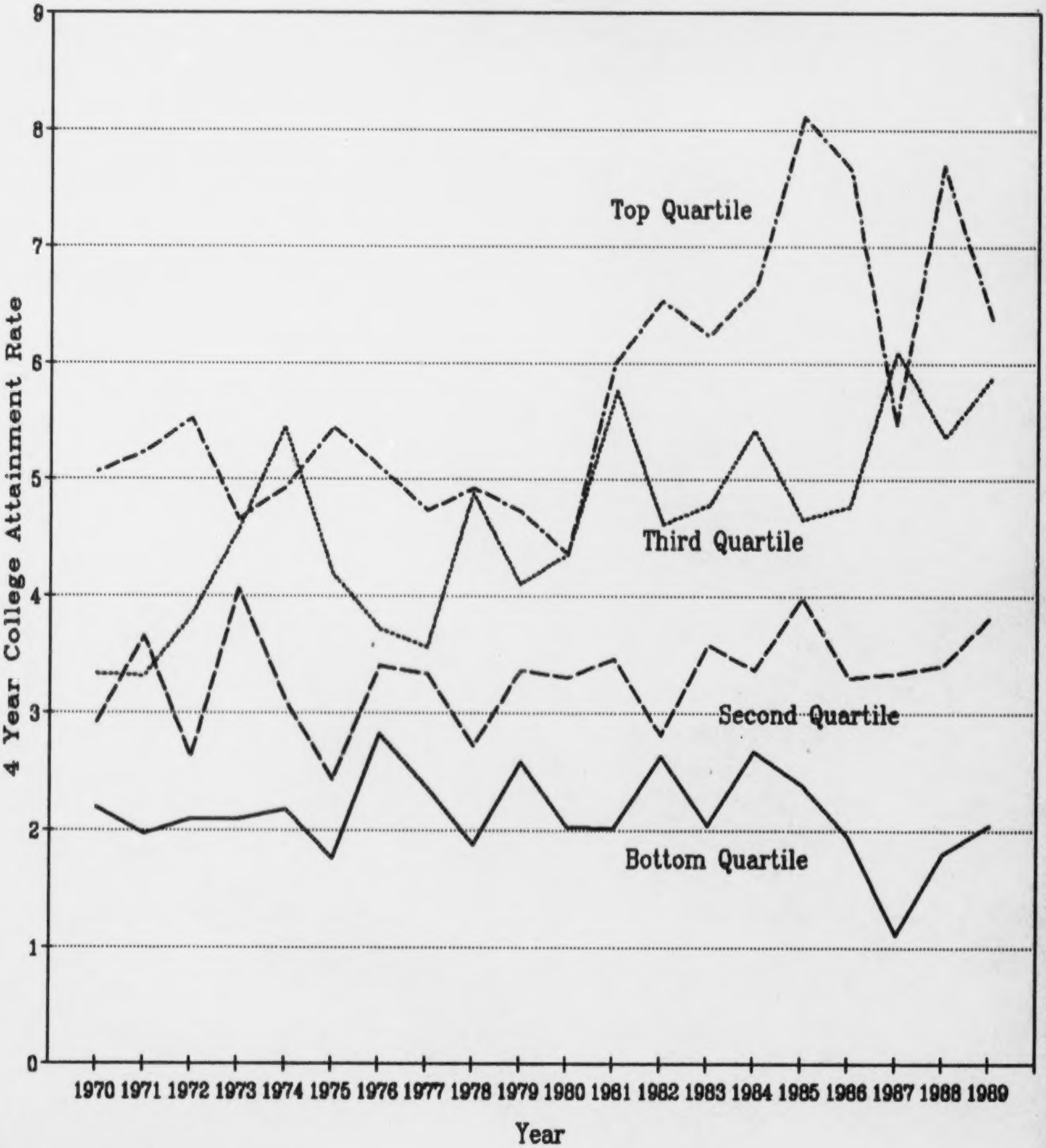
FIGURE G

1 TO 3 YEARS COLLEGE ATTAINMENT RATES BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AGE 18 TO 24 1970 TO 1989



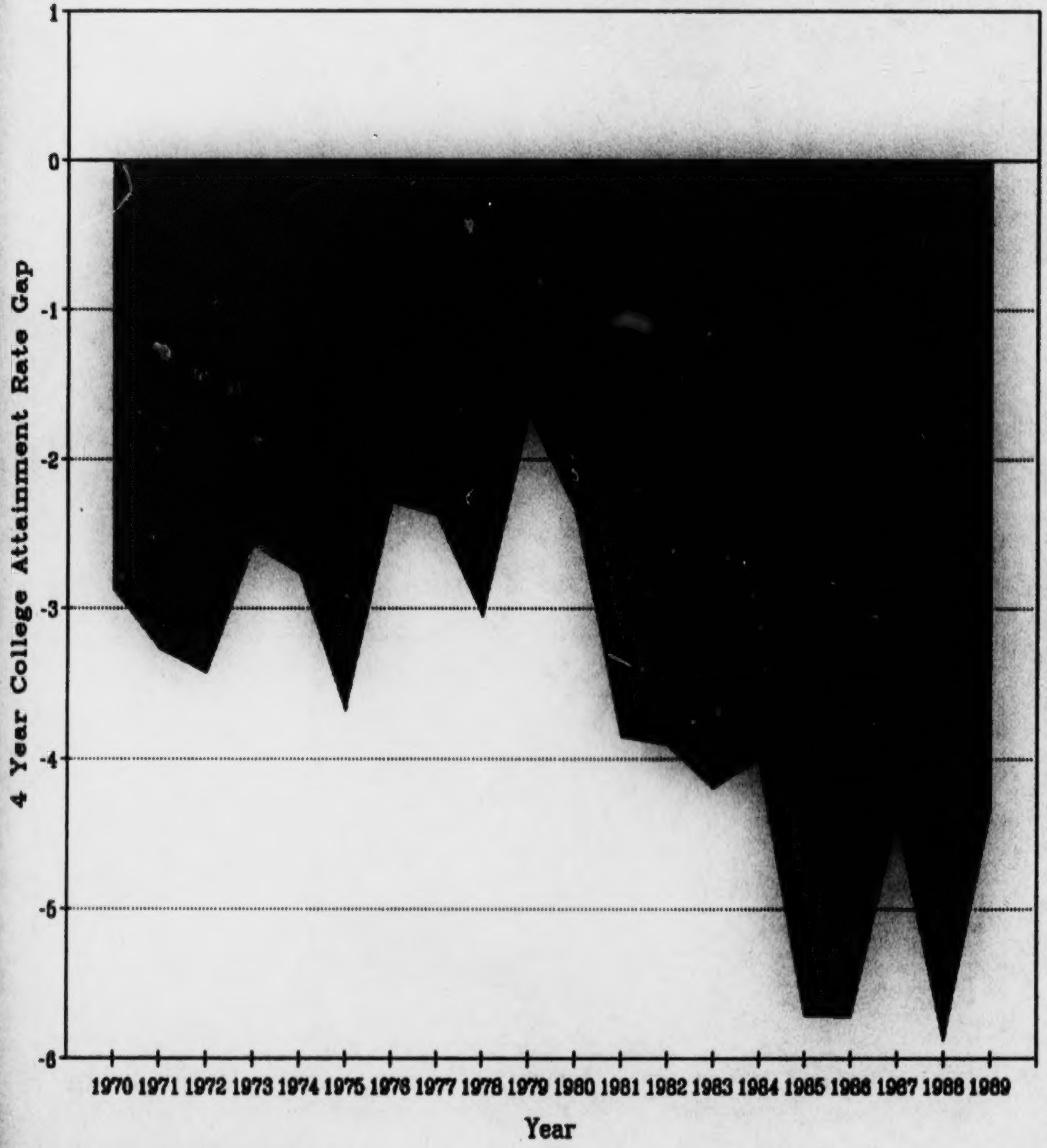
rce: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

FIGURE H
4 YEAR COLLEGE ATTAINMENT RATES BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AGE 18 TO 24
1970 TO 1989



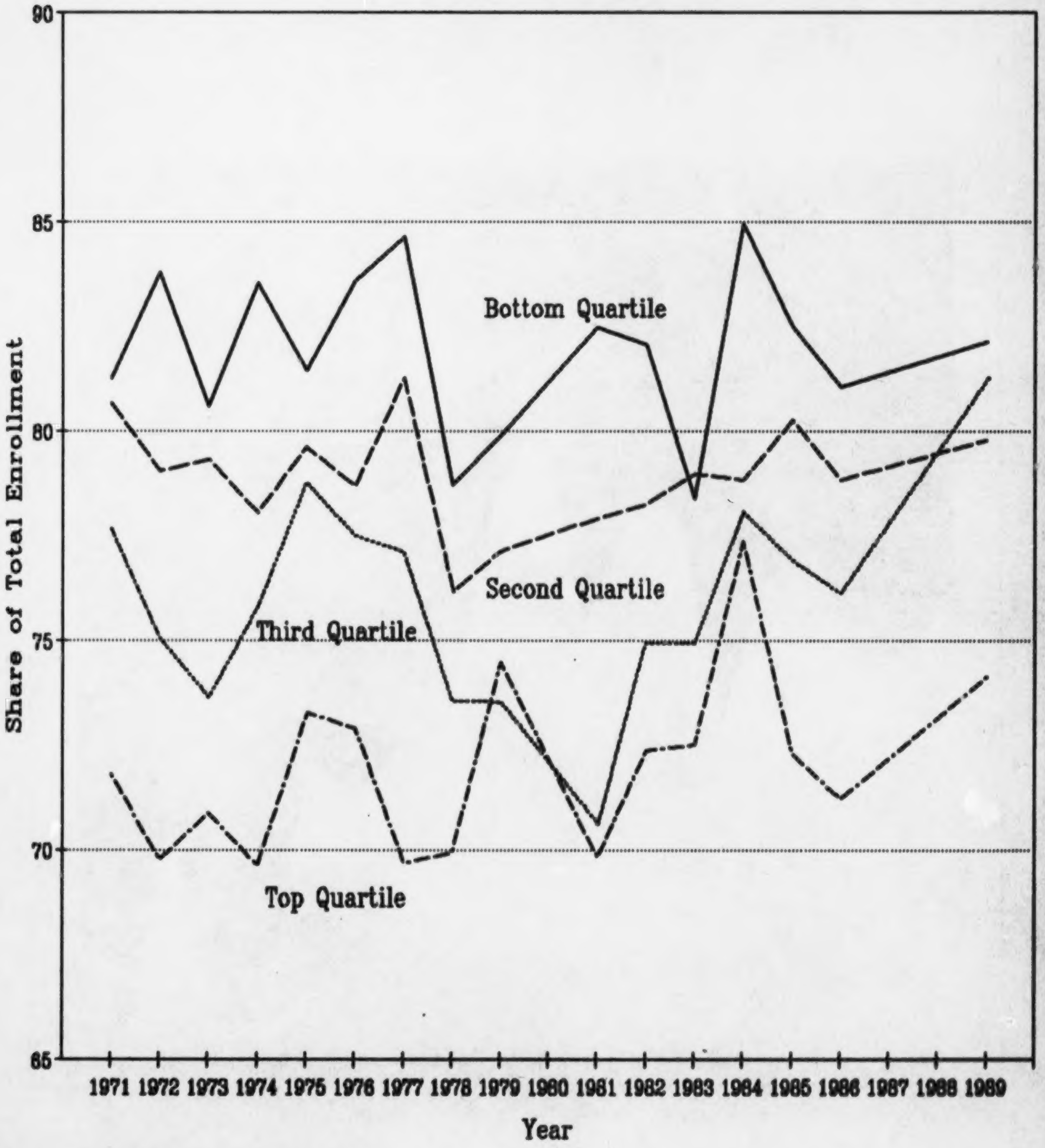
Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

FIGURE I
4 YEAR COLLEGE ATTAINMENT RATE GAP FOR BOTTOM QUARTILE OF FAMILY INCOME FOR UNMARRIED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES
1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

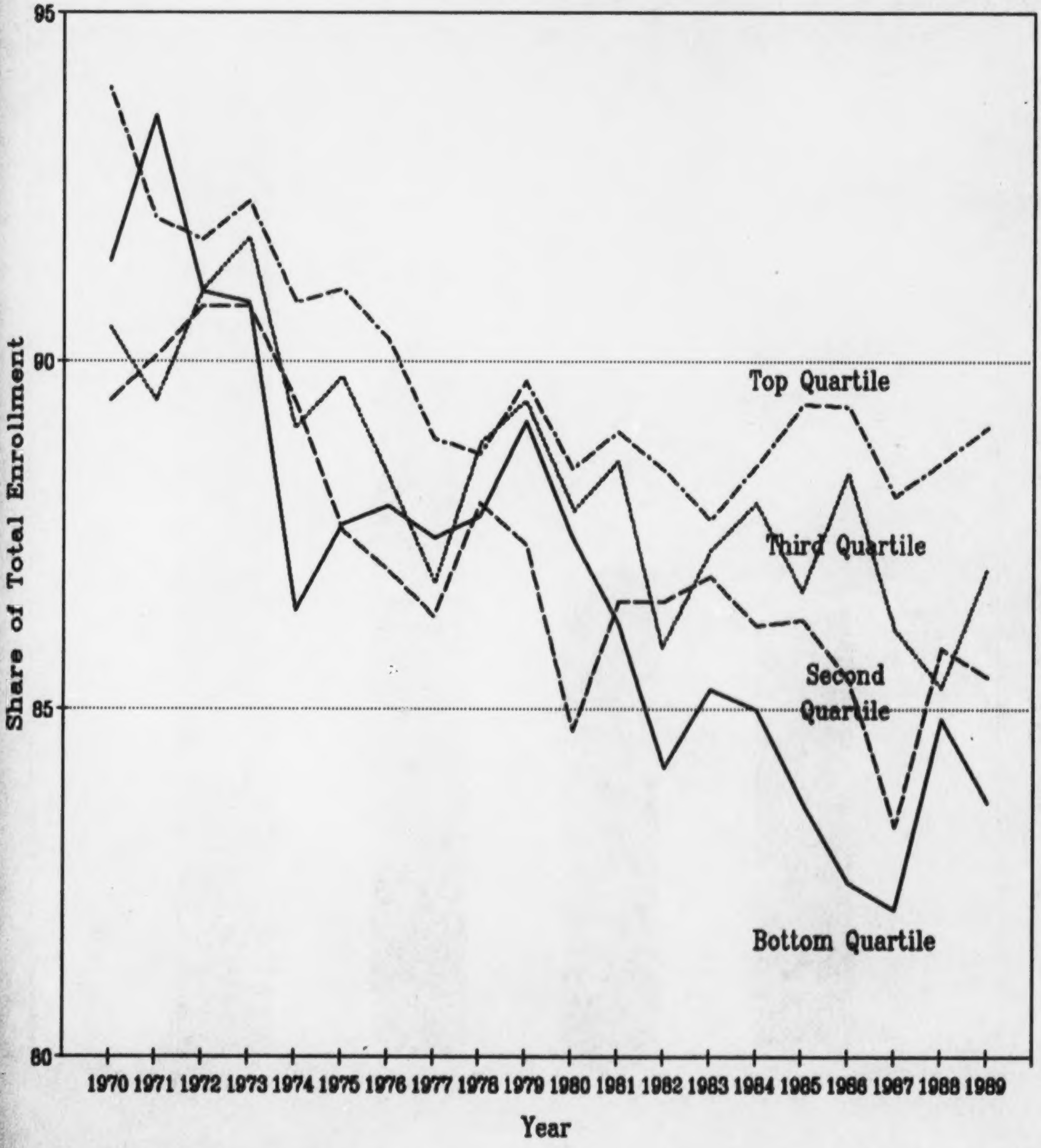
FIGURE J
PUBLIC COLLEGE SHARE OF HIGHER EDUCATIONAL ENROLLMENTS BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES
1971 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

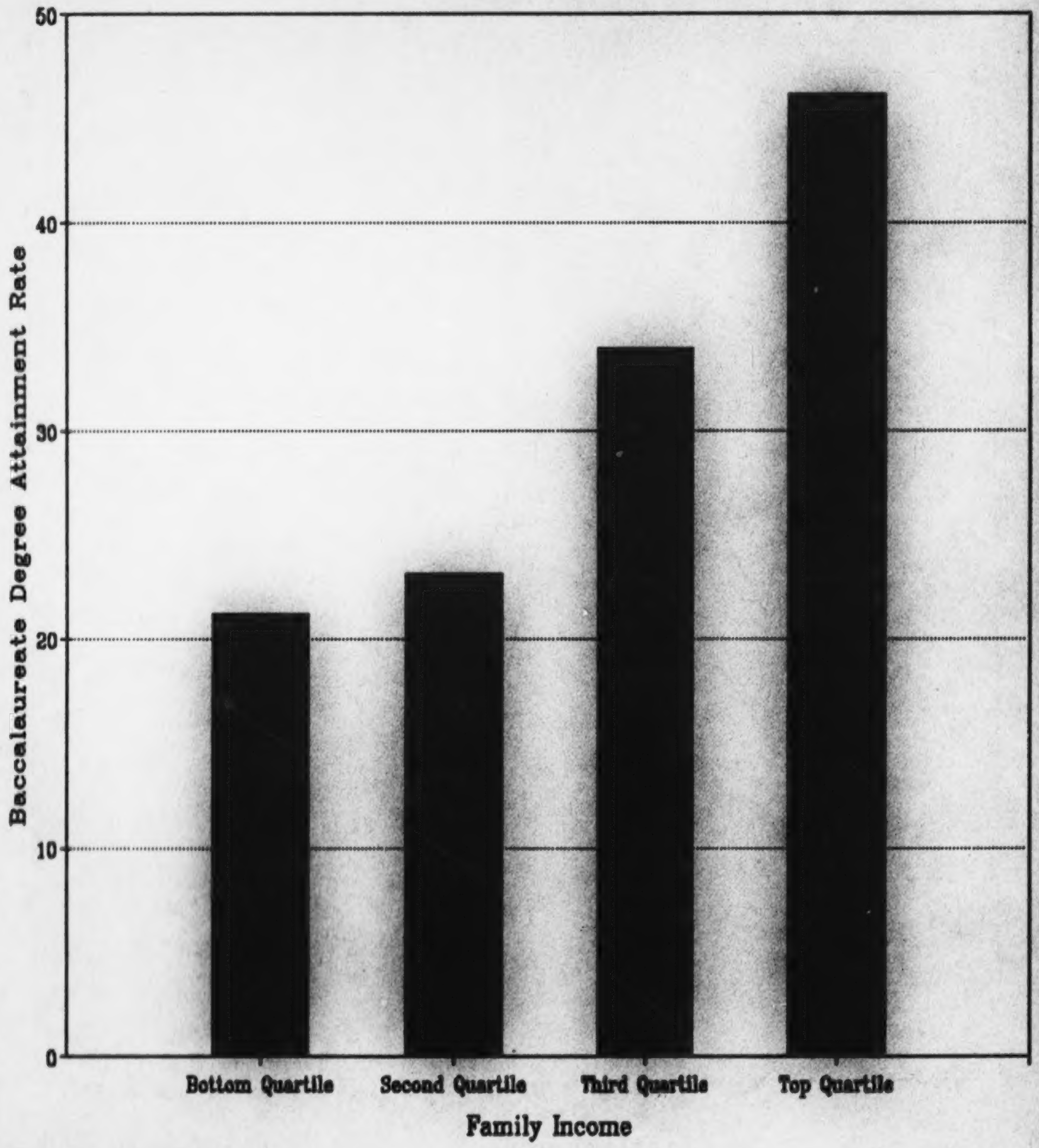
FIGURE K

FULL TIME ENROLLMENT SHARE OF TOTAL ENROLLMENTS BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES 1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

FIGURE L
BACCALAUREATE DEGREE ATTAINMENT RATES BY FAMILY INCOME FOR 1980 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WHO STARTED COLLEGE
SPRING, 1986



Source: 1980 High School and Beyond.

Chances for College

Thus far we have calculated the separate chances for young adults from different family income backgrounds to graduate from high school, then to matriculate in college for those who graduate from high school, and finally to earn a baccalaureate degree by age 24 for those who start college. We may cumulate these conditional probabilities to determine what chances young adults from different family income backgrounds have of getting into college. This is especially important in assessing the combined effects of Title I programs designed to assist low income children in elementary and secondary education and the effects of Title IV programs designed to assist young adults from low family income backgrounds gain access to higher education.

Figure M combines the high school graduation rate and the college participation rates for each family income quartile over the last twenty years. The results magnify the disparities present in the separate rates. In 1989 a young adult from the top quartile of the family income distribution had a 73 percent chance to both graduate from high school and enroll in college, compared to 60 percent from the third quartile, 46 percent from the second quartile, and 29 percent from the bottom quartile.

During the last twenty years the chances for college of a young adult from the bottom two family income quartiles have been largely flat. Especially in the bottom quartile, where federal programs to improve the educational opportunities for children and young adults have been focused during the last two decades, gains are largely absent. And compared to the top quartile, where changes in school enrollment behavior are influenced largely by labor market conditions, equality of opportunity to attend college has clearly suffered during the 1980s, as shown in Figure N.

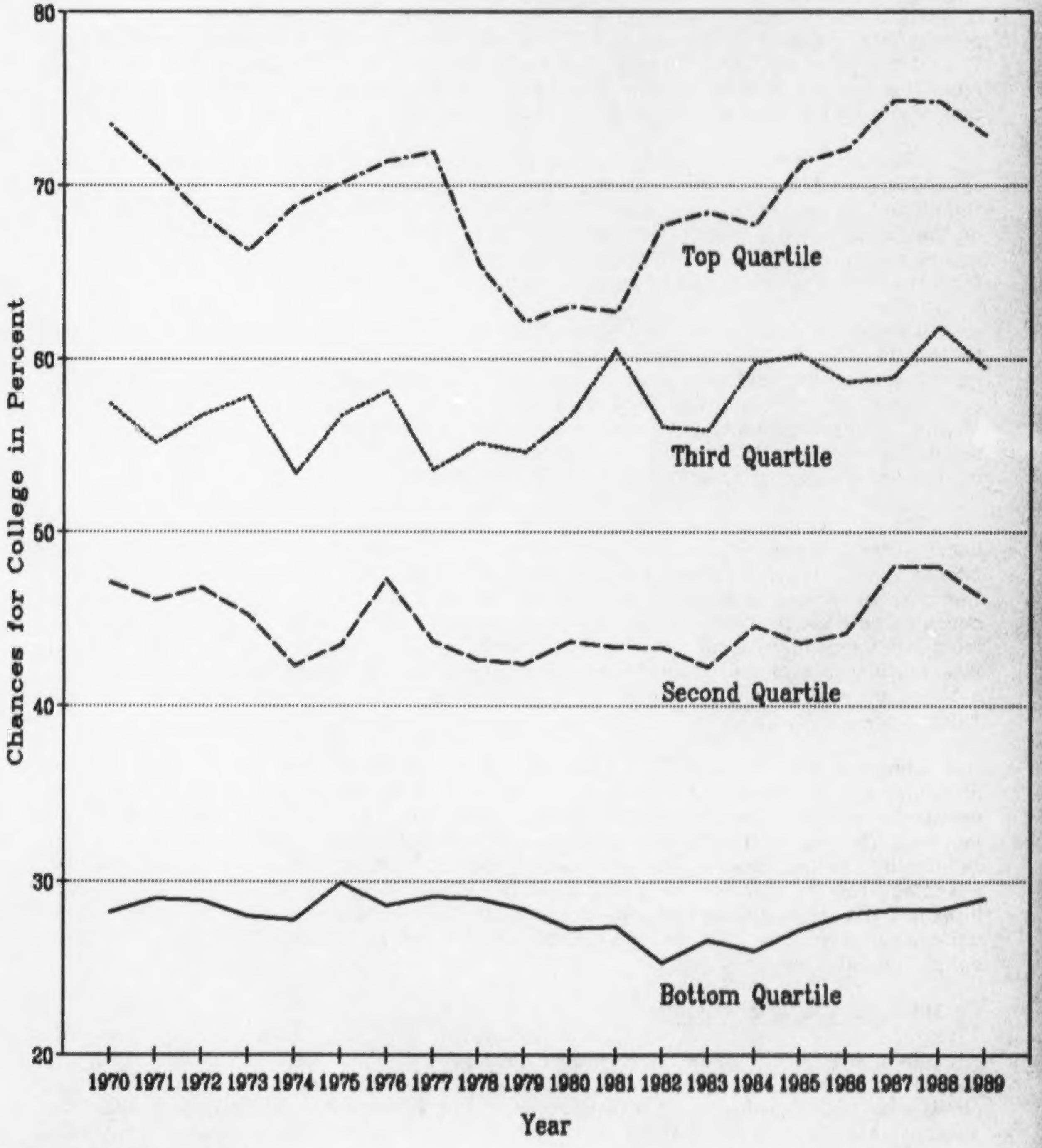
Finally, we combine high school graduation rates, college participation rates, and baccalaureate degree attainment rates in Figure O for each quartile for each of the last twenty years. These results summarize the entire study. They show significant gains in the chances of young adults from the top two quartiles of family income to earn a baccalaureate degree over the last two decades. They show virtually no gain for a person from the second quartile of family income. And, despite the massive federal intervention on behalf of students from low family income backgrounds, the chances for a baccalaureate degree by age 24 have actually decreased, especially during the late 1980s.

During the latter half of the 1980s, an unmarried young adult from the top quartile of family income had an eight to thirteen times better chance of earning a baccalaureate degree by age 24 than did another young adult from the bottom quartile of family income. The gap in the chance for a four year college degree for a student from a low family income background narrowed during the 1970s, from about a six times greater advantage for the high income young adult in 1970, to four times by 1979. After 1979, however, the gap opened wider than ever. Partly this was the result in a deterioration in college participation rates, and mostly this was the result of a deterioration in four year college completion rates.

Considerations for Public Policy

Over the twenty years of this study, three general conclusions stand out. First, the disparities between family income levels in educational attainment are large, pervasive, persistent, and growing. At every step in the educational process, the odds for advancement strongly favor those from highest family income backgrounds and disfavor those from lowest family income backgrounds. This is true for the population as a

FIGURE M
CHANCE FOR COLLEGE BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED 18 TO 24 YEAR OLDS
1970 TO 1989



Source: Calculated from study data.

xx

FIGURE N
CHANCE FOR COLLEGE GAP FOR BOTTOM FAMILY INCOME QUARTILE FOR UNMARRIED 18 TO 24 YEAR OLDS 1970 TO 1989

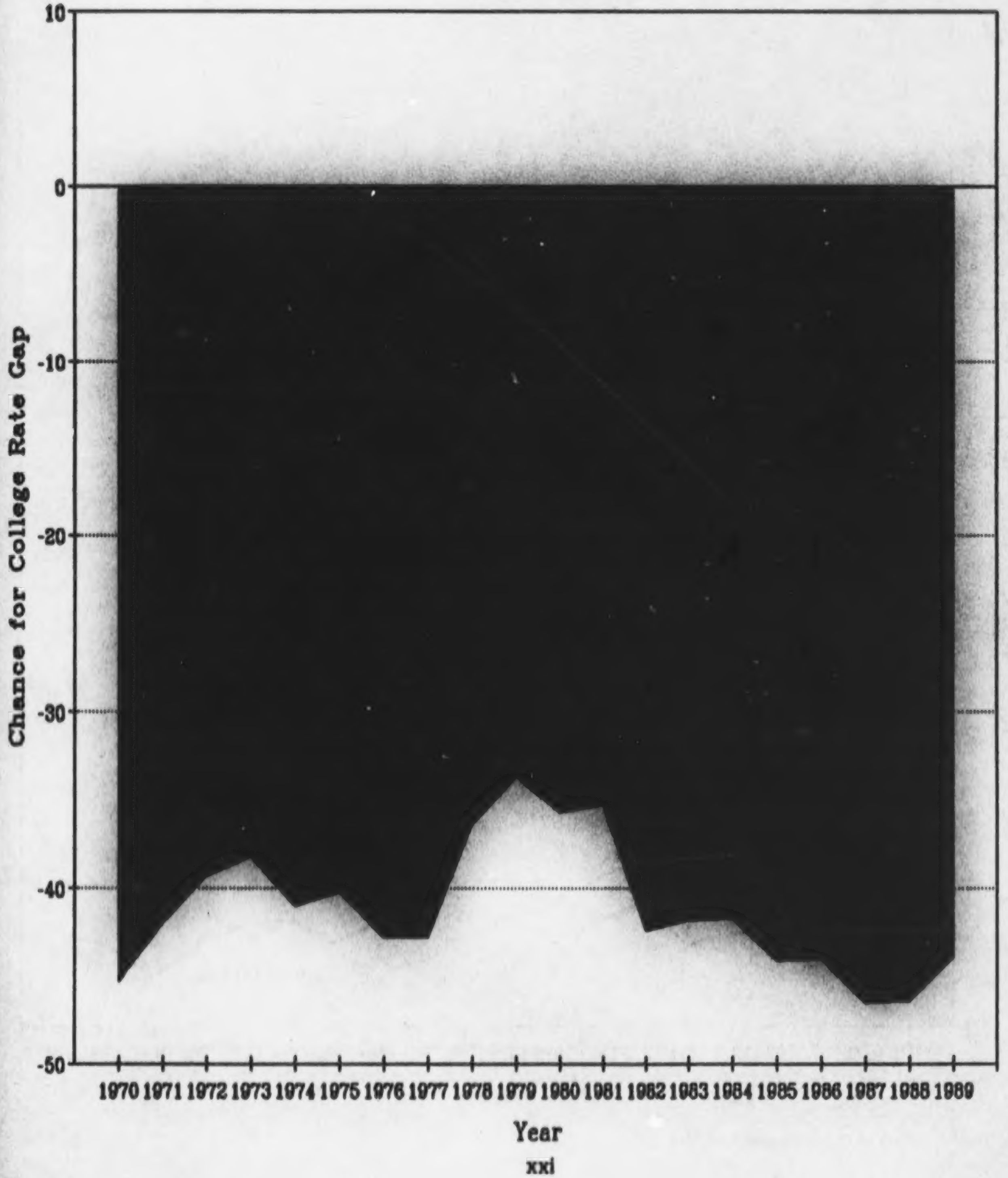
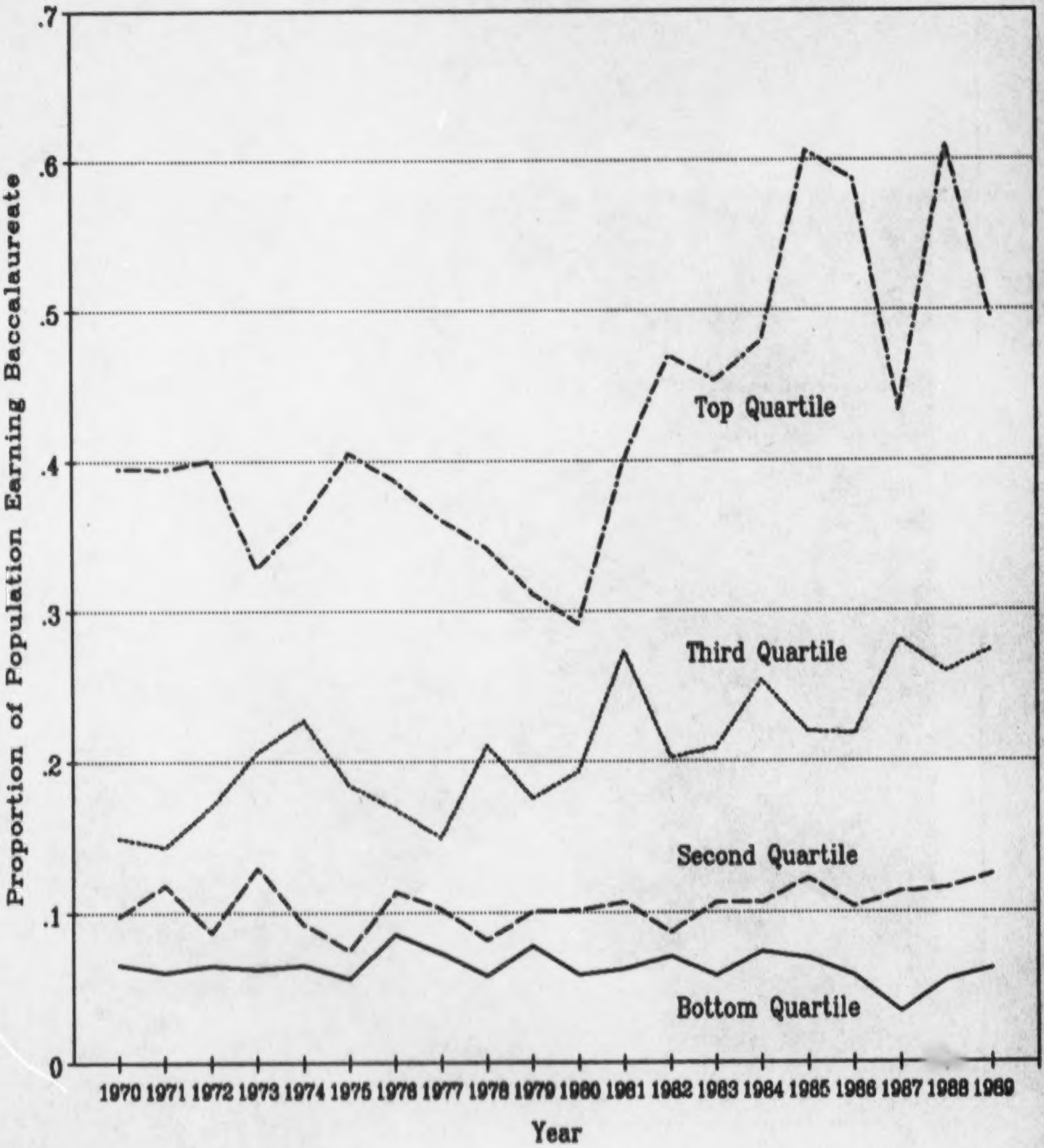


FIGURE O
ESTIMATED CHANCES FOR A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE BY AGE 24 BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILE 1970 TO 1989



Source: Data developed in tables, plus estimates.

whole, for men, women, whites, blacks, and Hispanics. It holds throughout the twenty year period of this study. And the gap between those from low and high incomes is growing: in the latter half of the 1980s it is wider than it has been at any time during the last two decades.

Second, the overall gains in educational attainment for students from low family income backgrounds have been small, transitory, and often offset by losses elsewhere. The high school graduation rate for bottom quartile students increased slightly between 1970 and 1989, but this gain was offset by a decline in the college participation rate during the same period of time. Gains for females were offset by losses for males. Relative gains in college participation rates during the 1970s were lost during the 1980s. The chances of a student from a low family income background earning a baccalaureate degree by age 24 were actually lower in the late 1980s than they were in the early 1970s. At higher family income levels, increases in educational attainment become more apparent, and in fact above median family income these increases are quite remarkable. But federal programs were not targeted on students from above median family incomes--they were targeted on those from low family income backgrounds. And in the aggregate, the results are profoundly disappointing: low family income students actually lost substantial ground compared to high family income students during the 1980s.

The third conclusion one may reasonably draw from the findings is that certain low income groups within the population have made progress in high school graduation and college participation during the last twenty years. These groups are females from low family income backgrounds and blacks from incomes below the median. However, for both females and blacks the gains were made between 1970 and 1975 and gains did not continue thereafter.

On balance, many anticipated that there would be broad and substantial signs of success resulting from massive federal investments in educational opportunities for low family income students through Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and Title IV of the Higher Education Act. These data did not produce those signs of broad and substantial success. If the federal programs had been successful there would have been at least an increase in the level of participation of disadvantaged students. At best the increase in participation would have been at a higher ratio than the rest of the poulation, thus closing the gap between the disadvantaged students and the rest of the population. Every effort was made to look at all the possible indicators of participation, beginning with the obvious change in high school graduation rates. College participation was further decided by those who attended college and those who earned a four year degree. A further analysis was made for part-time versus full-time students and for public versus private college participation. Evidently, the key to increasing the participation of disadvantage students in higher education goes beyond additional funding for the K-12 system and funding for college expenses. While such funding is obviously necessary for these students who lack financial resources to pay these bills, it will take more than money to accomplish the worthy public policy goal.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AND COLLEGE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG ADULTS BY FAMILY INCOME BACKGROUNDS
1970 TO 1989

Thomas G. Mortenson
Zhijun Wu
American College Testing

I. Introduction and Background

The Issue

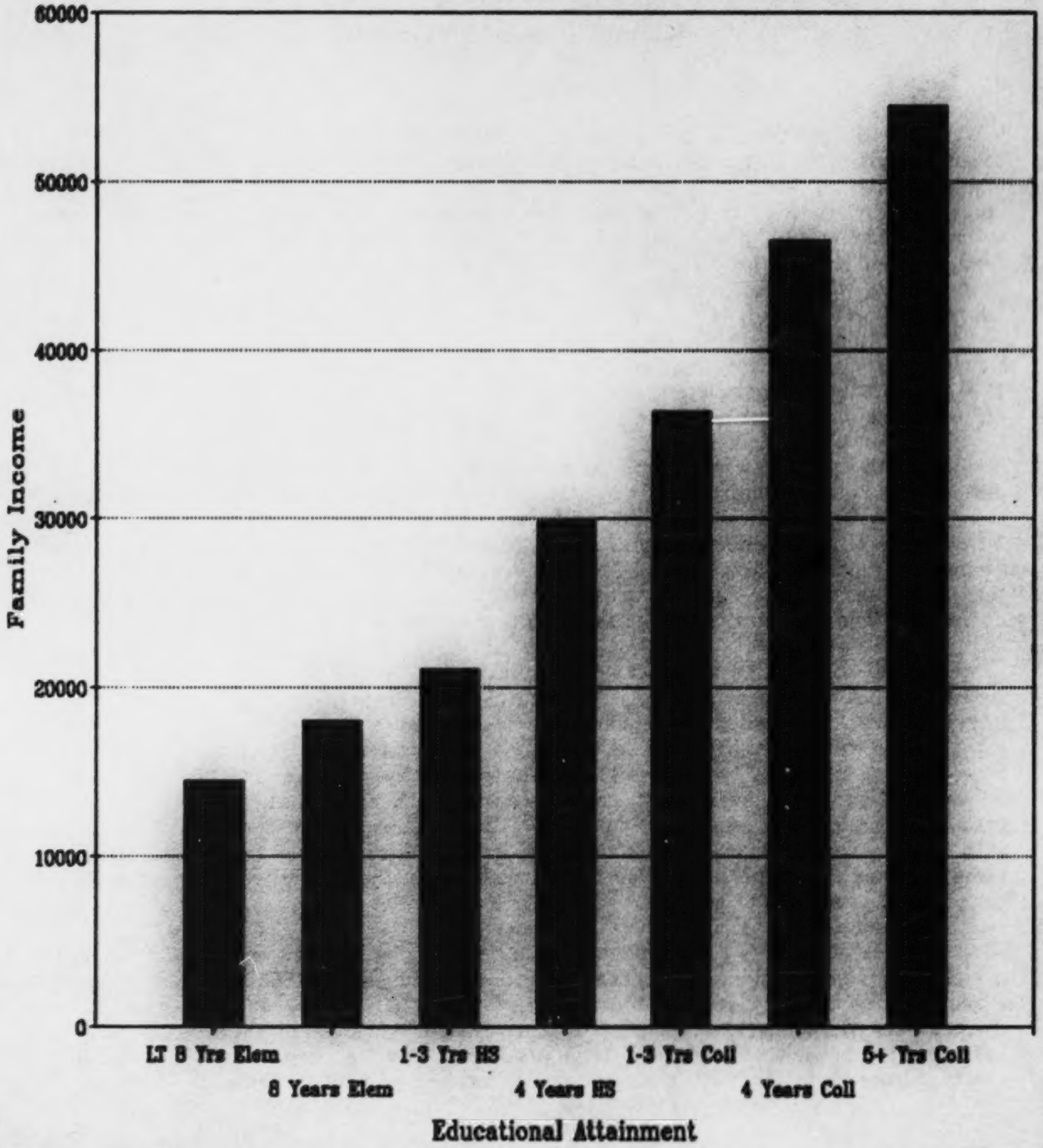
A central provision of the American social contract stipulates that education is the means by which an able and motivated citizen can expect to advance his or her position and condition in life. This social contract provision is justified from a collective perspective by the wealth-generating returns on human capital investments that accrue to society generally, the educated citizenry needed to make the political system function, and the social need to stabilize an economic system characterized by the destabilizing influence of extremes in the distribution of well-being. For the individual, educational attainment is strongly associated with employment and unemployment, occupation, income, wealth, social status, recreation and entertainment, health and sickness, life expectancy, happiness, voting, and community involvement (Mortenson, 1990). The socially approved means to these ends is through education, and government at every level is committed to the provision of educational opportunity for its citizens.

We can measure well-being in summary fashion. Income is a commonly accepted measure of our individual and collective well-being. Family income is strongly associated with educational attainment of the head of the household, as shown in Figure 1 for 1987. In 1987, family incomes averaged $29,937 for families headed by high school graduates, compared to $50,115 for families headed by college graduates. By this summary measure, families with greater levels of educational attainment are better off on average than are families with lesser levels of education.

During the last two decades, the relationship between education and personal well-being (as measured by income) strengthened as real income growth was limited largely to families headed by persons with four or more years of college, as shown in Figure 2. Overall, family income growth in the United States stopped about 1973. However, not all family types have been affected equally. Real income growth is income minus inflation's bite. Because the remainder was positive for families headed by college graduates, their living standards improved. The incomes of families headed by persons with lesser levels of educational attainment increased, but not as fast as inflation, and these families thus experienced substantial declines in their standard of living after the early 1970s, as shown in Figure 3.

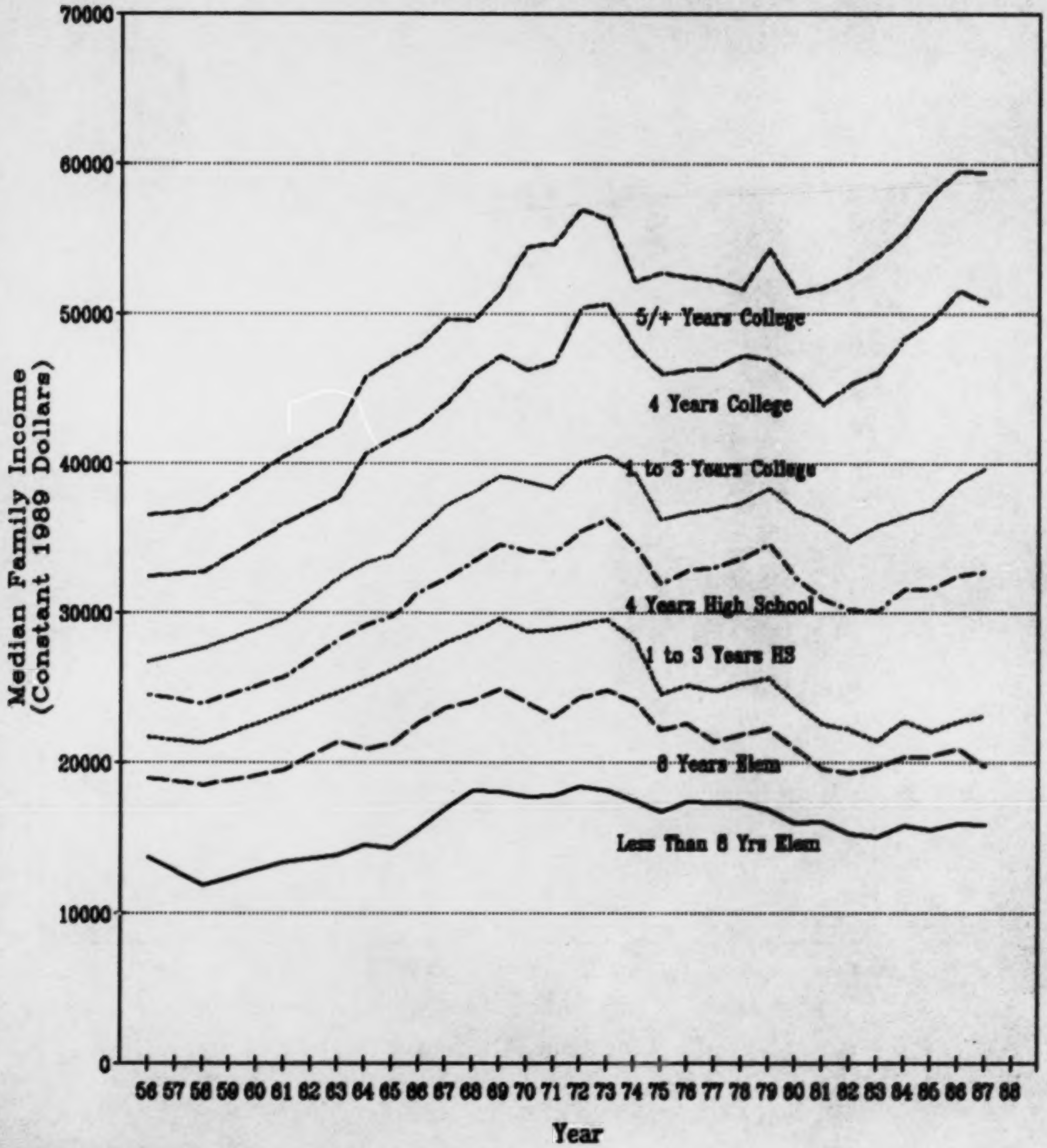
Because of the key role of education in determining position and condition in adult life, a fundamental concern of federal educational policy since 1965 has been to see that educational opportunity is available to all Americans (Eidenberg and Morey, 1969, and Gladieux and Wolanin, 1976). That is to say, no American should be limited in his or her opportunities to seek to improve their well-being through education as a result of constraining circumstances of their birth, such as race, gender, location, or income.

FIGURE 1
MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME
BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF HOUSEHOLDER
1987



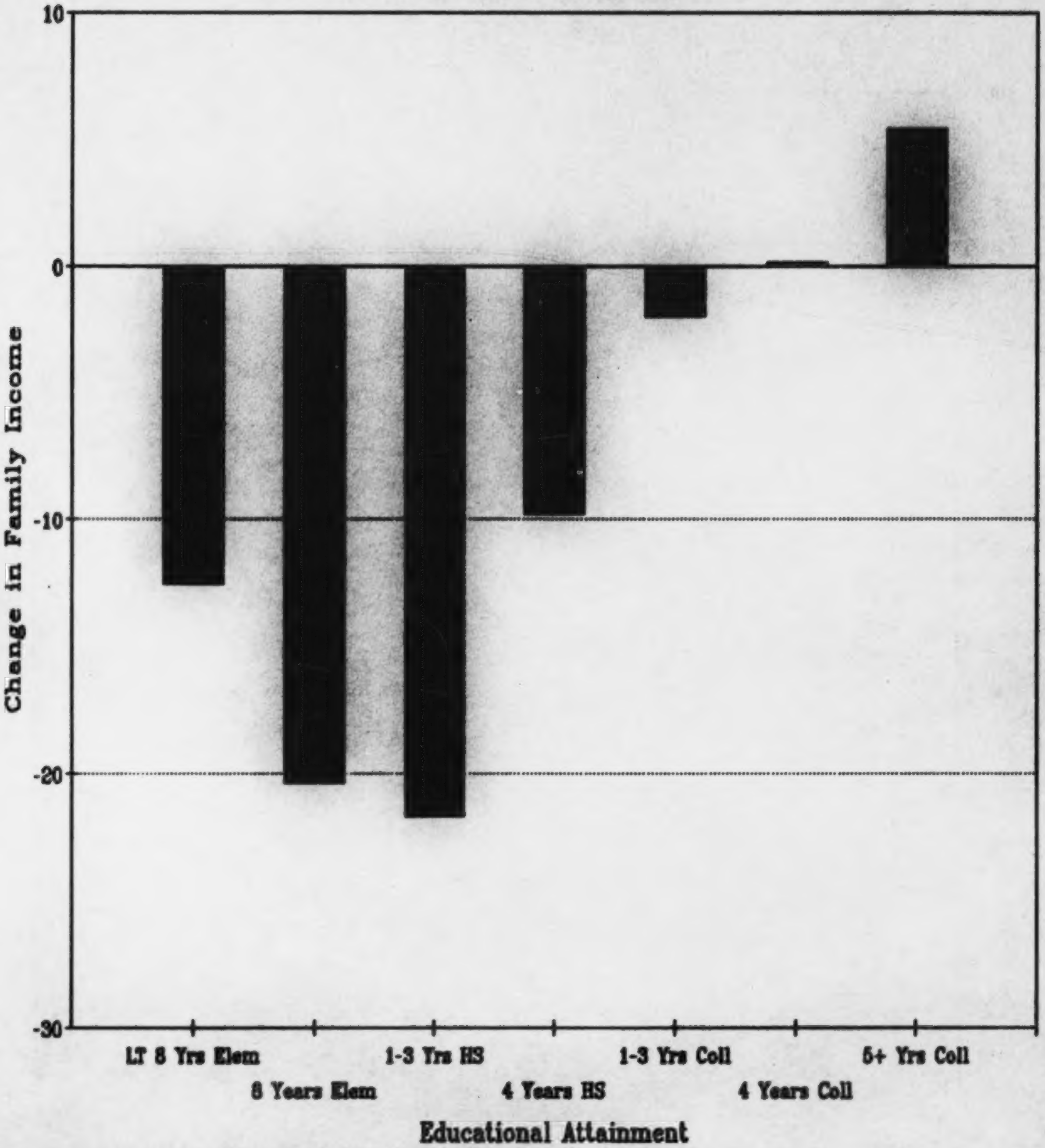
Source: Current Population Reports, Consumer Income, Series P-60.

FIGURE 2
MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME
BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF HOUSEHOLDER
1956 TO 1988



Source: Current Population Reports, Consumer Income, Series P-60.

FIGURE 3
CHANGE IN MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF HOUSEHOLDER BETWEEN 1973 AND 1987



Source: Current Population Reports, Consumer Income, Series P-60.

In this study, we examine the relationship between family income background and educational attainment among young adults over the last two decades. We examine trends and patterns in high school graduation and college participation among 18 to 24 year olds from different family income backgrounds. We accept as given that high school graduation and college participation are necessary conditions to earning the baccalaureate degree from college that provides access to the greatest opportunities of American life.

Public Policy Background

In 1964 and 1965 Congress passed a series of laws that had as their central objective the reduction in poverty in the United States. The War on Poverty had three major themes: to increase the human capital of the poor, to remove irrelevant barriers to employment, and to stimulate the economy to generate more jobs. Examples of the legislation that constituted the program included the Economic Opportunity and Civil Rights Acts in 1964, and the Voting Rights, Medicare, Elementary and Secondary Education, and Higher Education Acts in 1965.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Higher Education Act were principal components of President Johnson's program. These two laws defined the central concerns and interests of the federal government in education. Principally through these two laws the federal government sought to expand educational opportunity for students from limited family income backgrounds.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. While America has always stood by a commitment to education for its citizens, the matter of its delivery has been contested. During the nineteenth century this debate focused on public versus private education. During the twentieth century the concerns shifted to matters of finance and the appropriate role of the federal government in financing elementary and secondary education. In the nineteenth century public schools were locally financed and governed. During the twentieth century states entered the financing picture and assumed an increasing share of the responsibility.

As state and local governmental financing increased, the question of the federal role was debated. The variation in tax resources between school districts and between states was obvious. In 1946 Senator Robert Taft articulated what was to become a fundamental rationale for federal involvement in all education in 1965:

> Education is primarily a state function—but in the field of education, as in the fields of health, relief, and medical care, the federal government has a secondary obligation to see that there is a basic floor under those essential services for all adults and children in the United States.

Following World War II, several issues divided the groups favoring general financial assistance to elementary and secondary education. One was race—federal funds could not be used to support segregated school systems. Another was aid to private and parochial schools, especially Catholic schools. A third obstacle was reluctance by some to involve the federal government in state matters.

By 1965, however, a Catholic president had articulated a church-state separation position, his assassination had generated a ground swell of sympathy, and the 1964 congressional elections had greatly increased the number of members of Congress prepared to vote for general aid to elementary and secondary education. The debate first dropped from consideration whether there was a federal role, and focused on whether the federal role should include aid to private and parochial schools. These positions softened as a compromise formula focusing funds on students rather than schools was developed. In particular, the allocation of federal funds was to be based on the number of children in impoverished families living in each independent school district. The funds were thus tied to the poverty program under the child-benefit theory.

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 contained five major titles. Of the initial authorization of $1.3 billion, $1.06 billion or 81 percent of the total was for Title I. Under this title, funds were to be spent in areas with concentrations of very low income families (less than $7700 per year in 1989 dollars). This affected 94 percent of the nation's school districts in 1965. The federal dollars were provided for equipment, classroom construction, and staff additions. Nonpublic students were provided benefits through services such as educational radio and television, dual enrollment programs, and mobile educational services and equipment. (Eidenberg and Morey, 1969)

The focus in 1965 remains the federal focus today. Federal support for elementary and secondary education remains focused on Title I programs that support educational opportunities for students from low family income backgrounds and having other disadvantages in education. The current version of Title I as contained in the federal code sets out the federal government's policy and purpose as follows:

> Declaration of Policy
> In recognition of (1) the special educational needs of children of low-income families and the impact of concentrations of low-income families on the ability of local educational agencies to provide educational programs which meet such needs, and (2) the special educational needs of children of migrant parents, of Indian children, and of handicapped, neglected, and delinquent children, the Congress declares it to be the policy of the United States to (A) provide financial assistance to State and local educational agencies to meet the special needs of such educationally deprived children at the preschool, elementary, and secondary levels; (B) expand the program authorized by this division over the next 5 years by increasing funding for this division by at least $500,000,000 over baseline each fiscal year and thereby increasing the percentage of eligible children served in each fiscal year with the intent of serving all eligible children by fiscal year 1993; and (C) provide such assistance in a way which eliminates unnecessary administrative burden and paperwork and overly prescriptive regulations and provides flexibility to State and local educational agencies in making educational decisions.
>
> Statement of Purpose
> The purpose of the assistance under this division is to improve the educational opportunities of educationally deprived children by helping such children succeed in the regular program of the local educational agency, attain grade-level proficiency, and improve achievement in basic and more advanced skills. These purposes shall be accomplished through such means as supplemental education programs, schoolwide programs, and the increased involvement of parents in their children's education. (20 USC 2701)

Higher Education Act of 1965. A relatively obscure piece of legislation in the War on Poverty programs enacted by Congress in 1964 and 1965 was the Higher Education Act. Its significance lies in the shift it reflects in federal interests in higher education. Prior to 1965, the federal government was primarily concerned with manpower issues: the Morrill Act in 1862 regarding agriculture and mechanical training, the Servicemen's Readjustment Act in 1944 and phased reentry and training of returning military veterans into the civilian labor force, and the National Defense Education Act in 1958 and the education and training of scientists and engineers to compete with the Soviet Union. The 1965 law, however, initiated a federal commitment to student aid based on financial need that, for the first time, focused federal student financial aid on students from low family income backgrounds. The program that implemented this policy in 1965 was the Educational Opportunity Grant Program (which became known as the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program in 1972).

The Higher Education Act of 1965 was substantially overhauled by Congress in the 1972 Education Amendments, with the major change the creation of the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant Program. Federal financial support for student aid increased greatly throughout the remainder of the 1970s. The major federal student financial aid programs are contained in Title IV of the Act. They now include Pell Grants, Stafford Loans, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, College Work-Study, Perkins Loans, and State Student Incentive Grants.

Since 1965 and 1972, the federal government's major policy objective in the finance of higher education has been to expand educational opportunity for low income students through needs tested grants and more recently loans. The federal policy of student support is based on a view of consumer choice as the best guide to institutional responsiveness to the public interest. This became the federal policy with the adoption of the 1972 Education Amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1965. This policy is also enforced through civil rights statutes that prevent discrimination against many classes of citizens. Gladieux and Wolanin, in their political history of the 1972 Amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1965 (1976), concluded the following:

> One theme above all dominates the law and the legislative history. The equalization of opportunities for higher education, a goal historically more incidental than integral to federal involvement in this field, clearly became the central commitment of the federal higher education policy with the passage of the Educational Amendments of 1972.
>
> As an abstraction, equal opportunity is implicit throughout the bill - in the provisions for community colleges and occupational education, in the state planning provisions, in the institutional aid formula. But operationally, its principal meaning was that lack of money should not be a barrier to an individual's pursuit of education or training beyond high school. Thus the equal opportunity theme is most directly expressed in the student aid provisions, which form the centerpiece of the legislation. Removing the financial barriers facing students was the overriding concern of the legislators, as it had been of the Carnegie Commission and the Rivlin Report.
>
> The law embraces a set of new and old student assistance programs designed to ensure equal access to the postsecondary system and to go far toward ensuring equality of choice among institutions ....

> Corollary to the equal opportunity theme, the law enunciates the basic policy choice that students, not institutions, are the first priority in federal support for higher education. The legislators were concerned about institutional well-being and survival, particularly of private schools, but they determined that these concerns should not be the basis of federal policy. Better, they decided, to put purchasing power in the hands of needy students and let the students make their own choices in the marketplace of postsecondary education. This strategy would have the effect of concentrating available federal resources on the students who might otherwise be barred from postsecondary opportunities; it would also, so the reasoning went, serve to make institutions more responsive to the needs and interests of such students. (Pp. 224-225)

Since 1965, these programs have been reviewed by Congress at five to six year intervals through a process of reauthorization and amendment to the existing statute. The current legislation is scheduled to expire and be reauthorized in 1991, although an automatic one year extension is available if Congress should choose to enact reauthorization legislation in 1992. This reauthorization process provides an opportunity to assess how well the needs of students from low family income backgrounds are being served by the existing array of federal, state, institutional, and privately funded student aid programs and services.

Previous Studies of Higher Educational Participation

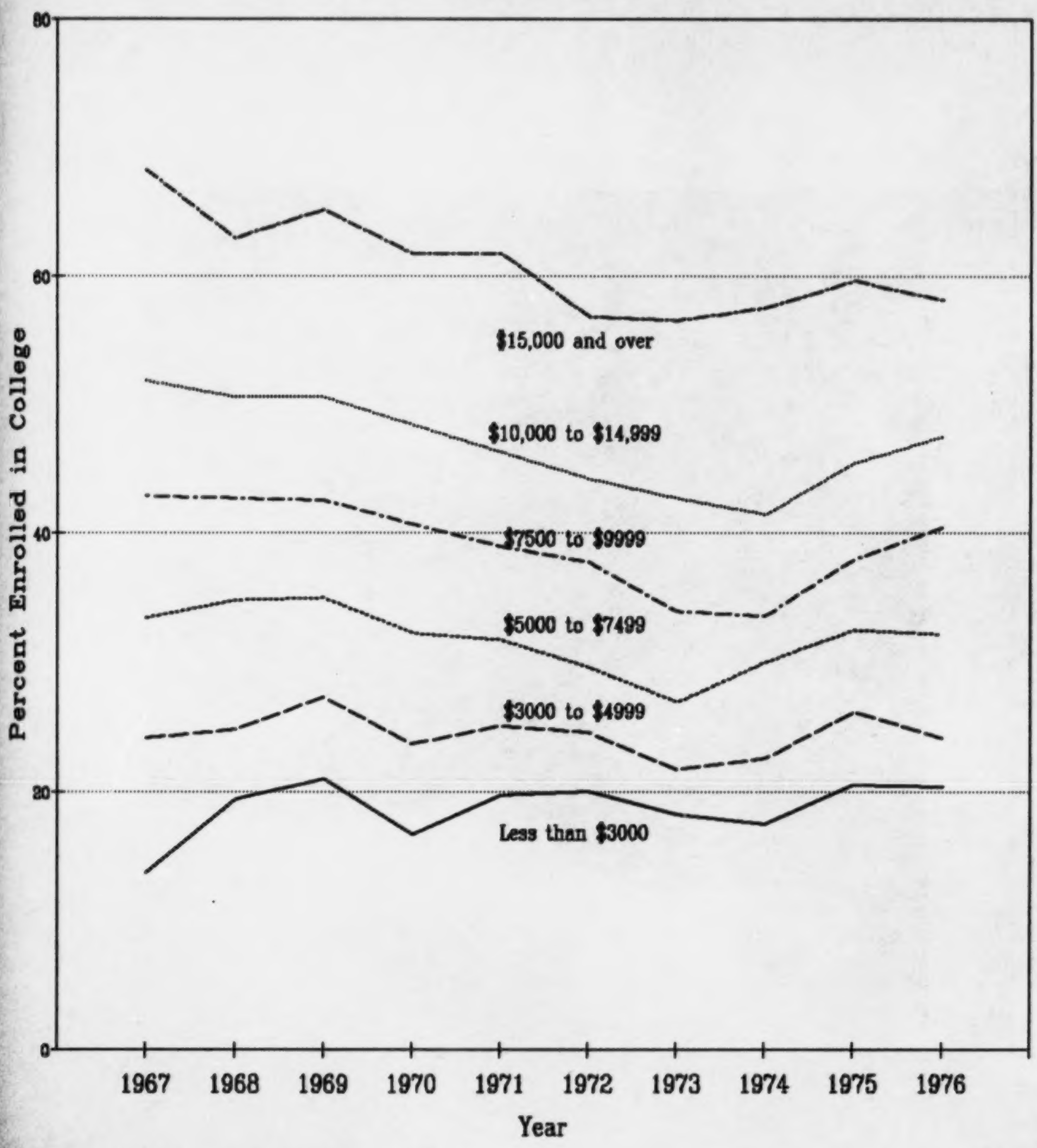
The question of higher educational participation by people from different family income levels has been studied previously by Bruno (1976), Hansen (1982), Davis and Johns (1988), and Mortenson (1989). The two latter studies reached a different conclusion from the Hansen study. Hansen's study (of which this study is an extension) found no significant effects of the infusion of federal student financial aid during the 1970s on the college participation behavior of low income students. Davis and Johns, on the other hand, found significant effects.

The study reported in the body of this paper analyzes the same set of data used by Bruno in 1976 and Hansen in 1982, and reaches a somewhat different conclusion from that reached by Hansen. Because Hansen's paper received considerable attention (Breneman, 1982, and Hook, 1982) in the partisan and bitter debates over student aid between the Reagan Administration and Congress when it was released in 1982, we will review its methods and findings here. But first we review Bruno's published data.

Bruno data. In a table appended to the 1976 Current Population Report on "School Enrollments," Bruno reported the results of carefully designed retabulations of Current Population Survey data on the college enrollment of dependent family members 18 to 24 years old by constant dollar family income for the years 1967 through 1976. (Current Population Report, P-20, No. 319) Her results have been charted in Figure 4. These results represent the rate at which the population (not only high school graduates) from different family income levels were enrolled in college over this ten year period. The results indicate declines in college enrollment rates from income levels over $5000 (in 1967 dollars), and quite flat rates for those from less than $5000.

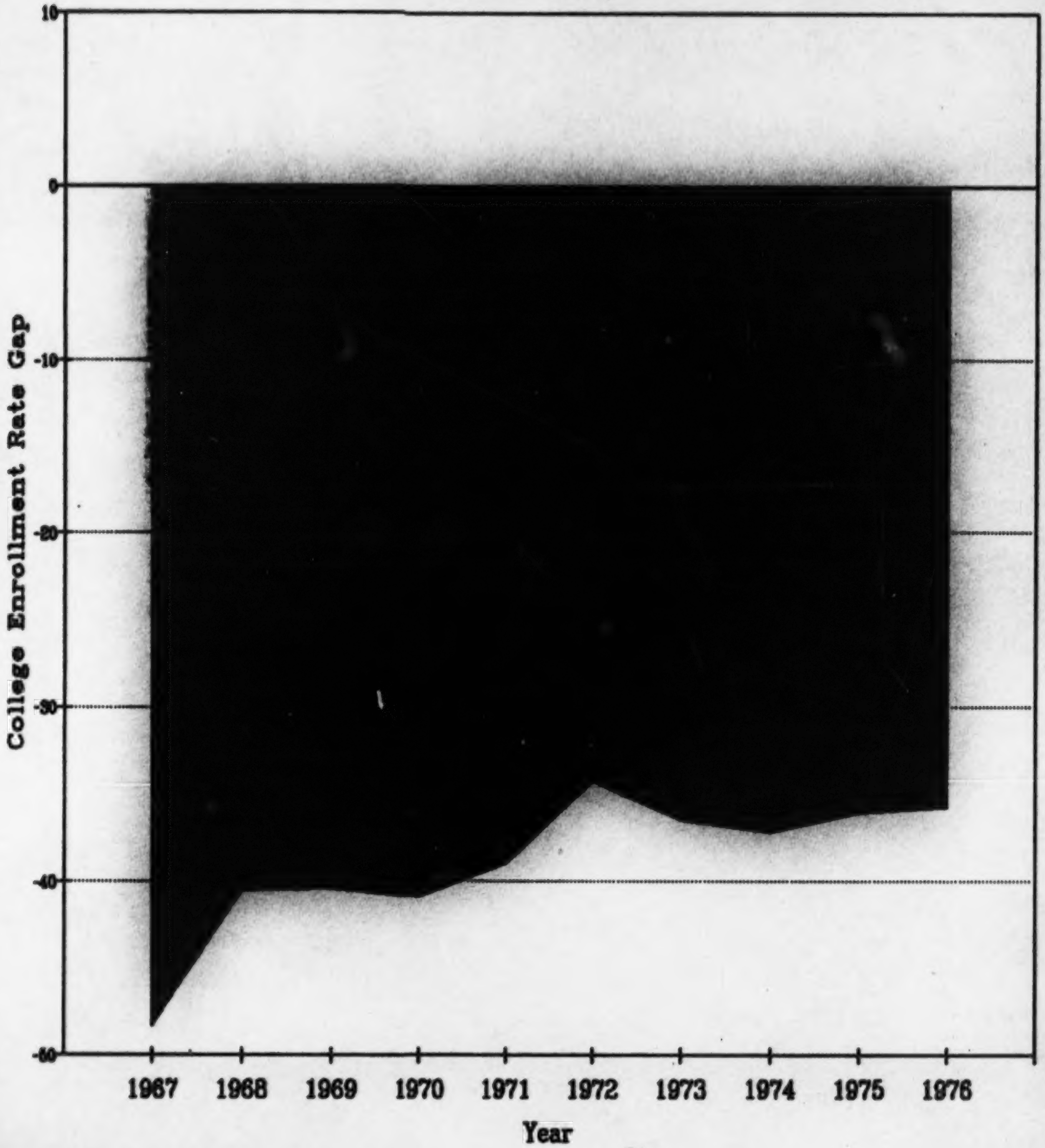
Consistent with our illustration of equity later in this paper, we have charted in Figure 5 the difference between the college enrollment rates for those from family

FIGURE 4
COLLEGE ENROLLMENT FOR DEPENDENT FAMILY MEMBERS AGE 18 TO 24 BY FAMILY INCOME IN CONSTANT 1967 DOLLARS
1967 TO 1976



Source: Current Population Report, P-20, No. 319, p. 68.

FIGURE 5
COLLEGE ENROLLMENT RATE GAP FOR LOW FAMILY INCOME DEPENDENT FAMILY MEMBERS AGE 18 TO 24 YEARS
1967 TO 1976



Source: Current Population Report, P-20, No. 319, p. 68.

incomes over $15,000 per year and those from families with incomes of less than $5000 per year. (These correspond very roughly to the top and bottom quartiles of family income used throughout the body of this paper.) These results show a rather significant closing in the disparity between the college enrollment rates of high and low family income young adults, mainly between 1967 and 1972. Between 1972 and 1976 there was no further reduction in the gap between the rates of high and low family income young adults.

Unfortunately, the Bruno analysis has never been updated. For the ten year period that it covered, it demonstrated that the disparity between the college enrollment rates of young adults from high and low income families could be reduced. The reduction in the disparity, however, occurred only partly because of a small increase in low income college enrollment rates. Mainly, the reduction in the disparity was a result of a decline in the college enrollment rates of young adults from higher family income backgrounds. This finding will appear in the study reported in the body of this paper as well. Other findings in Bruno's analysis concerning college participation rates by gender are not summarized here but were consistent with the findings reported later in this paper.

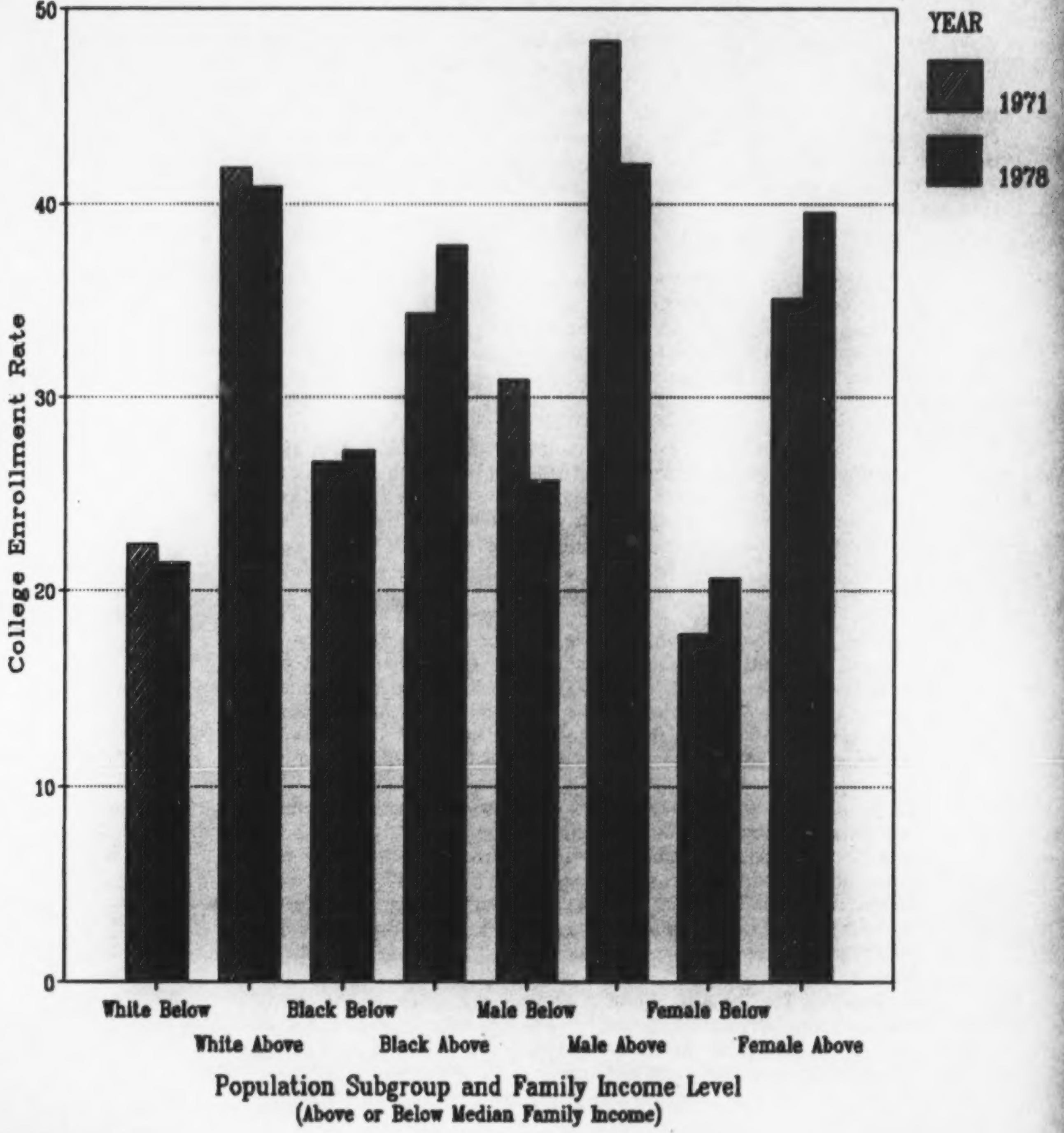
The Hansen study. In 1982 Hansen reported results of a study that challenged his own expectation that the growth in federal student aid funding would increase the college participation rates of students from low family income backgrounds compared to the rates for students from high family income backgrounds. Hansen's analysis was based largely on the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS) reports in the P-20 series, although data from other sources were also examined and reported.

Hansen used CPS data from two points in time--1971 and 1978-to compare the college enrollment rates for dependents from families with dependents age 18 to 24. His control for family income was above and below the median at these two years. He calculated college enrollment rates for white, black, male, and female high school graduates. We have charted Hansen's findings in Figure 6.

Hansen concluded his analysis of his data as follows:

> ... the evidence assembled here suggests that the growth in federal financial aid programs and their targeting toward youth from lower income and lower status families, did not appear to alter to any appreciable degree the college enrollment expectations of high school seniors or in the composition of postsecondary education students over the 1970s. (p. 46)
>
> ... we are left with a new set of questions that must be pursued before we can be satisfied that we understand what happened and why it happened. We must still start with the failure to observe more pronounced changes in enrollment patterns that would be consistent with the increased provision of student financial aid. As noted earlier, this came as a surprise to me and to many other observers of the program. To the extent that these expectations have not been fulfilled, and assuming that there is no other explanation for the absence of changes, we are forced to conclude that student financial aid simply operates as a transfer program, that by substituting of public for private funds it reduces the financial burden on parent and students. (p. 47)

FIGURE 6
COLLEGE ENROLLMENT RATES FOR DEPENDENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AGE 18 TO 24 BY RACE, GENDER, AND FAMILY INCOME 1971 AND 1978



Source: Hansen, 1982.

In a review of Hansen's analysis, Breneman identified several additional approaches to the analysis of available data that could have illuminated the puzzling findings further. Among Breneman's comments was the suggestion that dividing the population into halves above and below the median provided too gross a measure, "obscuring shifts in enrollment rates within each group." Breneman noted that Hansen's time series began with 1971, when the military draft during the Vietnam War distorted college enrollment behaviors, especially for whites males. He suggested either using an earlier base year or controlling in some other fashion for the war/draft effects on enrollments. Breneman noted that nobody knew much at all about the composition of student aid packages and what the effects of different packages (loans versus grants, for example) might be. He pointed out that the real purchasing power of the Pell Grant declined significantly over the period of study, and that Veteran's programs shrank. (Breneman, 1982)

Others have examined and commented on Hansen's analysis, findings, and conclusions. The ACT study reported in this paper is another response to Hansen's study. The ACT study addresses many of the concerns raised by Breneman, and in so doing produces somewhat different findings and conclusions.

The Davis-Johns study. Another approach to the study of college enrollment from different family income backgrounds was developed by Davis and Johns in the early 1980s, and updated in 1988. Their approach combined college freshmen enrollment data from the National College Freshmen Norms report series, with Current Population Survey data on incomes of families headed by parents that could have college age children. Davis and Johns calculated college enrollment rates by family income levels from these data sources for 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, and 1986.

The results of the Davis-Johns analysis are summarized in Figure 7. Shown are the percentages of college freshmen below the family income levels defining the upper limits of the first and second quartiles. What they show must be described by quartiles. The proportion of college freshmen from the first or bottom quartile of the family income distribution increased from 12.4 percent in 1966 to 22.4 percent by 1971 (when Hansen began his analysis). It then decreased to 17.2 percent in 1976, and increased to a peak of 24.4 percent in 1981 (three years after Hansen's time-series concluded). By 1986 the proportion had dropped to 20.3 percent.

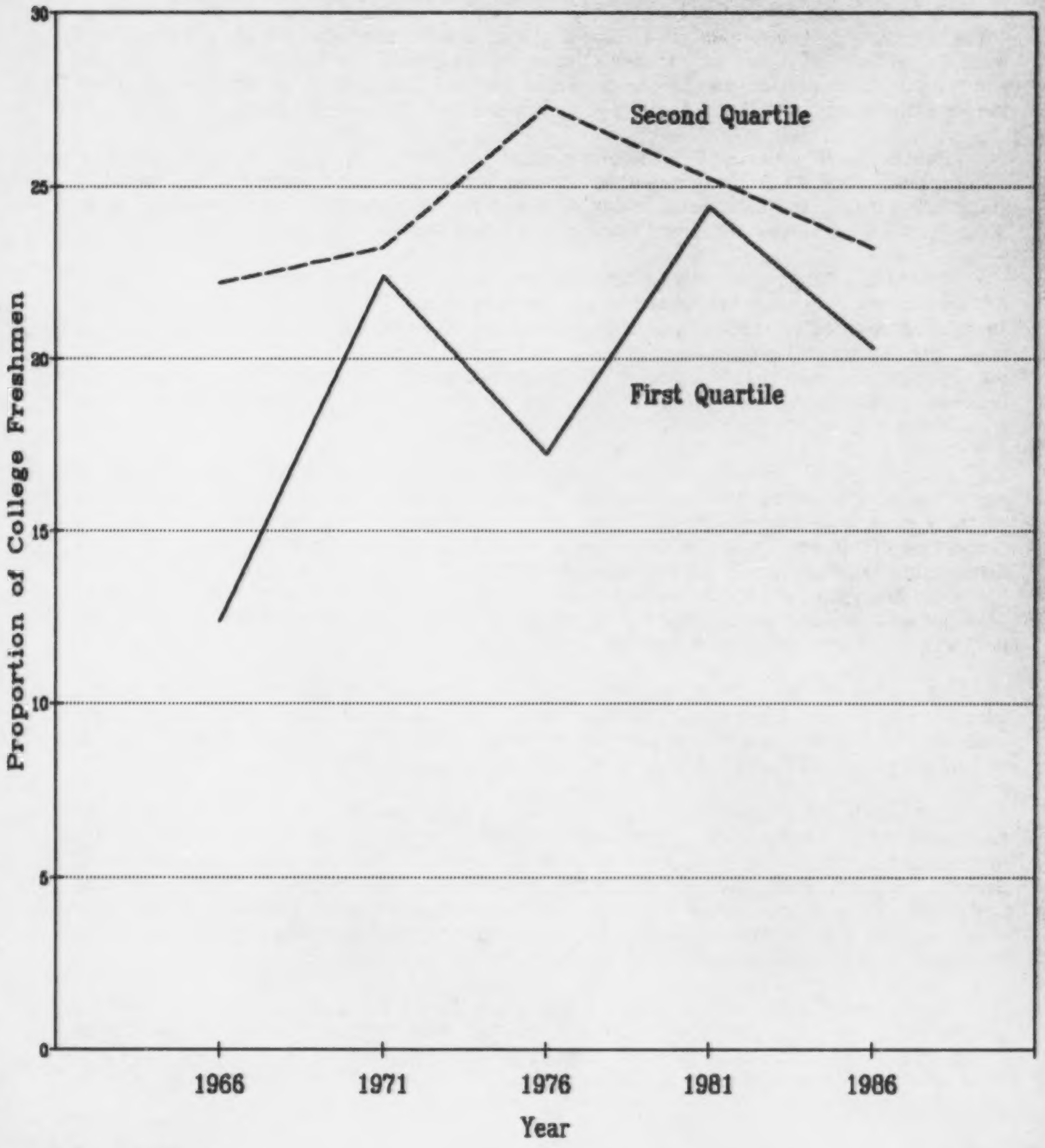
The growth and decline of the proportion of college freshmen from the second quartile of the family income distribution is less dramatic than that of the first quartile. The second quartile proportion increased from 22.2 percent in 1966, to a peak of 27.3 percent in 1976, and then dropped back to 23.2 percent by 1986.

The Davis-Johns analysis makes several improvements over the Hansen analysis as suggested by Breneman. First, the study breaks down the group below median family income into quartiles, with different results as Breneman suggested might be the case. Second, the Davis-Johns analysis begins five years earlier than Hansen's time-series, and again the results are more dramatic and informative than Hansen's. But the enhancements only partially develop the full picture of college enrollment behaviors for freshmen from low family income backgrounds.

Mortenson (1989) extended and refined the Davis-Johns analysis by calculating enrollment proportions for the bottom decile and next fifteen percent of the lower income quartile, calculated the enrollment proportions for each year between 1966 and 1988, and made several additional adjustments. The result of Mortenson's reanalysis is presented in Figure 8.

FIGURE 7

PROPORTION OF COLLEGE FRESHMEN FROM FIRST AND SECOND QUARTILES OF FAMILY INCOME 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, AND 1986

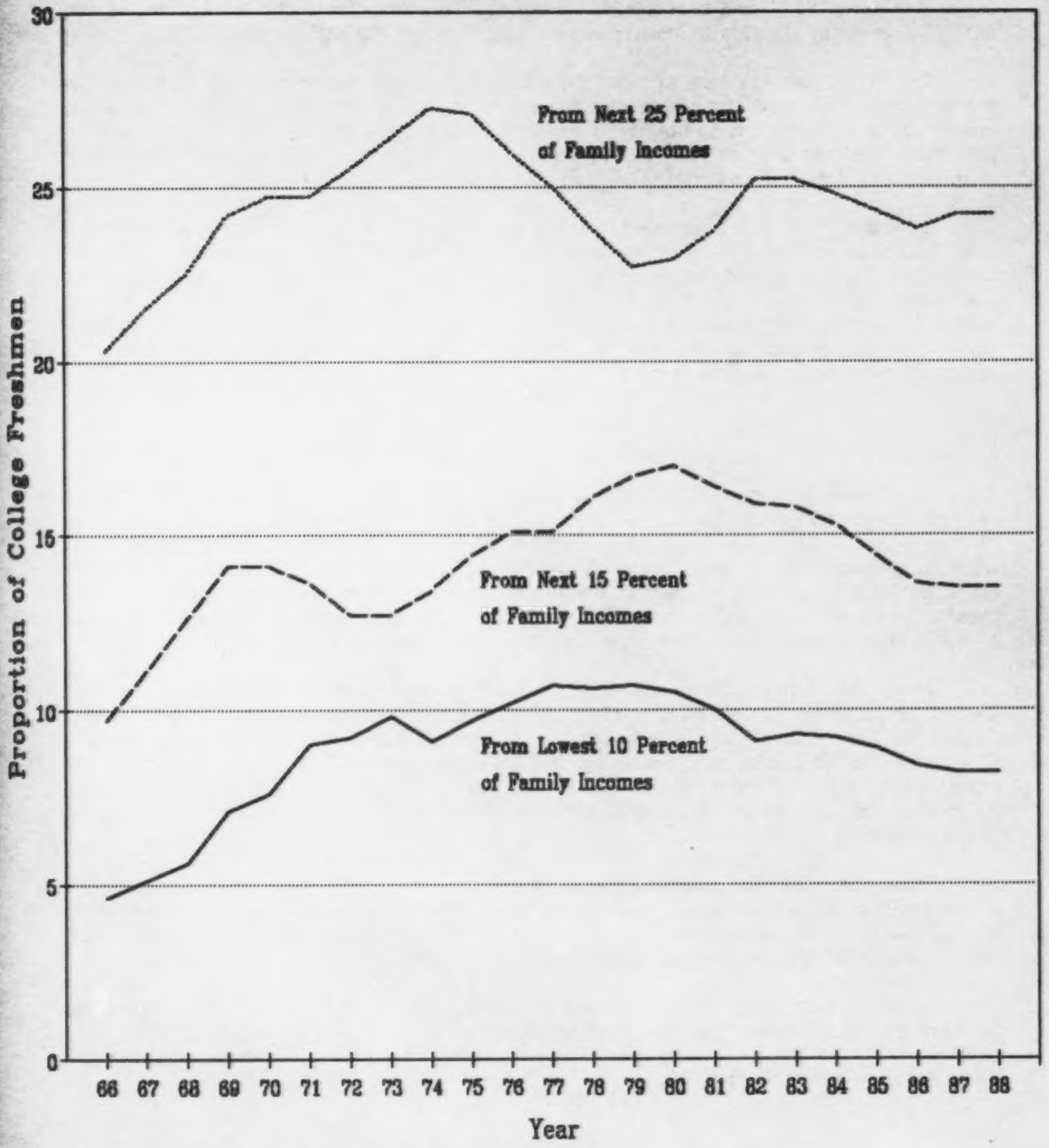


Source: Davis and Johns, 1988.

FIGURE 8

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION OF COLLEGE FRESHMEN FROM DIFFERENT FAMILY INCOME RANGES

1966 TO 1988



Sources: Current Population Reports P-60 and National College Freshmen Norms

In this chart, a decidedly different picture of college enrollment rates for freshmen from the bottom half of the family income distribution emerges compared to Hansen's picture shown in Figure 6. First and most notably, the proportional representation of freshmen from the lowest 10 percent, next 15 percent, and second quartile of family incomes increased most sharply between 1966 and 1971, or before Hansen's time series began. Second, the patterns differ between income levels. Third, the experience of the bottom quartile during the 1980s has been entirely negative. Following peaks reached during the late 1970s, the proportions of college freshmen from the lowest decile and next 15 percent of the family income distribution declined throughout the 1980s.

The Davis-Johns study and Mortenson's subsequent extension suffer from one problem that Hansen's study avoids. By combining data from two different sources, collected under different sampling procedures, using differing definitions, and lacking important controls such as high school graduation and families with children, Davis and Johns analyze data built on many soft assumptions.

A thesis of the study reported in this paper is that the data used by Hansen—which lack the above problems—can be used to reach a conclusion that supports the finding of Davis and Johns and refutes Hansen's earlier findings. This thesis is based on the marvelous advantage of an additional decade of data with which to clarify hindsight, as well as employing Breneman's original criticism regarding disaggregation of the bottom half of the family income distribution. The next section describes our reanalysis of the data set first used by Hansen in 1982.

Study Design

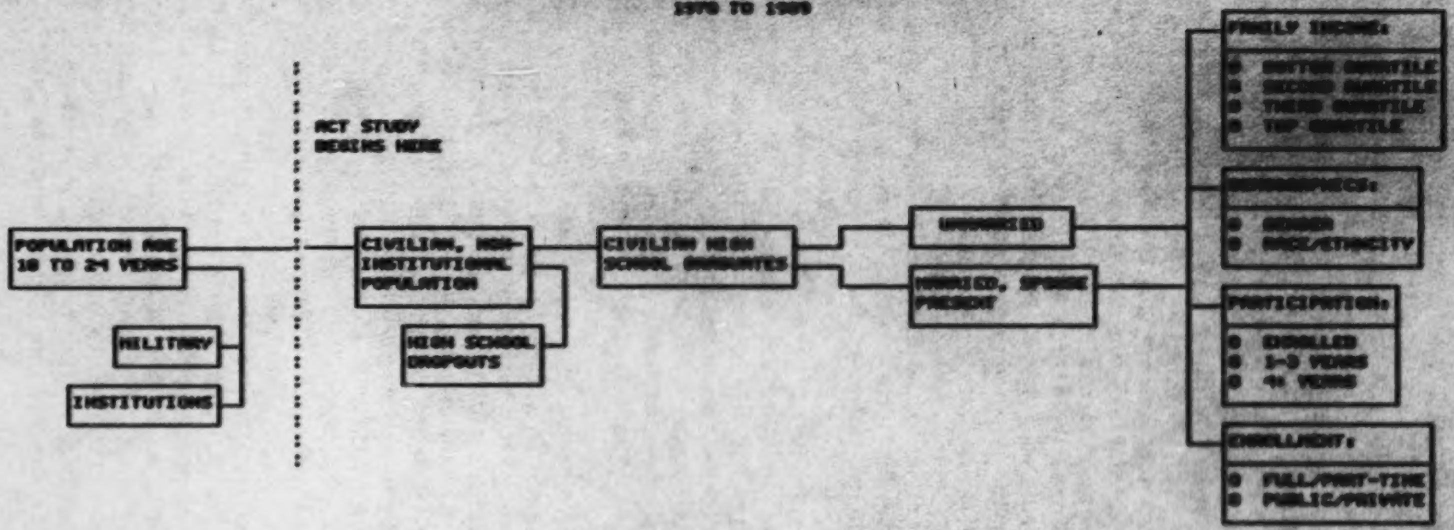
The intent of the study was to examine high school graduation and college participation rates for students from different levels of family income. The examination of these rates was to be descriptive, comparative, and exhaustive. Enrollment rates were to be calculated over a long period of time—several decades minimum-and these rates were then to be compared within family income levels over time, across family income levels at any point in time, and across family income levels over the time period of the available data. Data were organized to reflect these objectives.

Data: The data used were taken from the published reports of the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. These reports are published in the P-20 series of Current Population Reports, and bear the general title: "School Enrollment-Social and Economic Characteristics of Students: October 19XX." All data used in this study were derived (as explained below) from the table on "Enrollment Status for Primary Family Members 18 to 24 Years Old by Family Income, Control of School, Marital Status, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin."

These data describe the high school graduation and higher educational enrollment of the civilian, noninstitutional population of the United States based on annual sampling of this population in October of each year. Populations excluded from this sampling and report include people enrolled in military service or held in correctional institutions.

Analysis: The design of the analysis sequence is shown in Figure 9. This permits us to develop the Census data in ways that shed light on public policy problems of preparation for and participation in American higher education by young adults from different family income backgrounds.

FIGURE 9
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AND COLLEGE PARTICIPATION
OF 18 TO 24 YEAR OLDS BY FAMILY INCOME LEVELS
1970 TO 1989


ACT STUDY
BEGINS HERE
POPULATION AGE 18 TO 24 YEARS
MILITARY
INSTITUTIONS
CIVILIAN, NON-INSTITUTIONAL POPULATION
HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS
CIVILIAN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES
UNMARRIED
MARRIED, SPOUSE PRESENT
FAMILY INCOME:
o BOTTOM QUARTILE
o SECOND QUARTILE
o THIRD QUARTILE
o TOP QUARTILE
DEMOGRAPHICS:
o GENDER
o RACE/ETHNICITY
PARTICIPATION:
o ENROLLED
o 1-3 YEARS
o 4+ YEARS
ENROLLMENT:
o FULL/PART-TIME
o PUBLIC/PRIVATE

The Census Bureau's published data both permitted and required us to analyze data in several ways that helped illuminate the high school graduation and college enrollment behaviors that were the focus of the study. The first of these analyses required us to examine marriage among 18 to 24 year olds because the key family income control in our study would mean one thing for those living at home with their parents and quite another for those who had married and thereby created new families.

The second analysis required us to limit our study of college enrollment behavior to those who had graduated from high school and were thereby qualified to enroll in college somewhere. Thus, we were able to calculate high school graduation rates by family income level for those who were married and those who were not married. We devoted a section of this paper to describing these findings in some detail.

Once our base population was defined as limited to high school graduates who were either unmarried or married, we calculated family income quartiles for the unmarried and married populations separately for each year of our study, 1970 to 1989. The income boundaries for each marital status remain fixed in our study for each subpopulation group studied—males, females, whites, blacks, and Hispanics—which in turn enabled us to examine shifts in the composition of each quartile by subgroup over the twenty year period of the study.

As an alternative to the quartile breakdowns, we could have used constant dollar definitions of intervals in this study. We did not do so because we wanted to focus on Hansen's 1982 findings. However, for one reason this is an important question. Over the time span of this study—1970 to 1989—there has been a substantial redistribution of family income in the United States. There are now more poor families and rich families, and therefore fewer middle income families, than there were in 1970. This affects the interpretation of the findings in ways that will be addressed later in this paper. For now, it is important to note that some portion of the observed shifts in higher educational participation rates by young adults from different family income backgrounds that are reported in this paper are attributable to the bottom quartile being poorer in 1989 than it was in 1970, and the top quartile being richer in 1989 than it was in 1970.

Once family income quartiles were defined for the unmarried and married populations of high school graduates, we proceeded directly to the analyses of high school graduation and college participation behaviors. First, we analyzed college participation rates for all unmarried high school graduates age 18 to 24, then within each group for males, females, whites, blacks, and Hispanics. Second, we disaggregated college participation into its three components: currently enrolled in college, not enrolled but having completed one to three years of college, and not enrolled but having completed four years or more of college. Third, we examined two forms of enrollment for those currently enrolled in college: full-time compared to part-time study, and enrollment in a public or private college. All of these studies controlled for family income.

We present our findings regarding the high school graduation and college participation of married high school graduates age 18 to 24 in the Appendix of this paper. For married young adults, family income refers to their own income and not the family income background that they carried through elementary and secondary education and prior to marriage. Their own income is in turn largely a function of their own educational attainment. Among married high school graduates, those who have four years or more of college are both older than most 18 to 24 year olds, and in fact have higher incomes because of their own educational attainments. This is an issue quite separate from parental income and its relationship to educational opportunity. We have presented our analysis in tabular form in the Appendix tables for those who might wish to examine this question further.

Nearly all of the data developed in this study are contained in the 39 tables of the Appendix. The text highlights the major findings in narrative and charts. The serious student is invited to examine directly the data in the Appendix tables.

A Comment

People from different family income backgrounds differ in many ways beyond income that are important to the study of educational attainment. This study skips over these very important differences to focus on the bottom-line performance of federal programs designed to assist students from low family income backgrounds. While our study does not attempt to relate these differences to educational attainment, one should not ignore the roles such differences play in influencing educational outcomes. In fact, we think it likely that failure to focus remedial efforts on these specific problems of children from low income families contributes to the lack of apparent results achieved by programs to help such children that have been in place for the last twenty five years.

For example, less than half of the high school seniors who take the ACT Assessment for college admission have completed a college preparatory curriculum in high school. These are students who, by taking the ACT Assessment, signal not only their intent to go on to college after high school but their intent to attend a selective admissions college likely to offer the most challenging academic experience. For the 1989 high school class, 54 percent of those who took the ACT Assessment had not completed a high school curriculum that ACT research has shown to be important to maximizing one's chances for success in college.

More central to our concern for students from low family income backgrounds, the 1989 ACT data show that 66 percent of the high school graduates who came from family incomes of less than $6000 per year had not completed the college preparatory curriculum in high school, compared to 44 percent of those from families with incomes greater than $60,000 per year. Clearly, those from very low family income backgrounds are less well academically prepared to undertake and succeed in college than are those from the highest family income backgrounds. Moreover, the gap in preparation for college between high school seniors from very low and very high family income backgrounds has widened during the last two years.

Public policy designed to enhance educational opportunities for students from low family income backgrounds must consider differences such as these beyond family income if the differences in educational attainment are to be effectively addressed. Although this study does not address such differences, informed public policy making should consider such factors in the design of programs to carry out public policy objectives.

II. Marriage and High School Graduation

This section describes patterns and trends in marriage and high school graduation among 18 to 24 year olds. We are interested in marriage because we want to know to whose family the reported family income refers--the parent's or the student's. And we are interested in high school graduation because it is a prerequisite for college admission, which in turn is a prerequisite for a bachelor's degree and access to life's rewards that follow from higher education.

Marriage

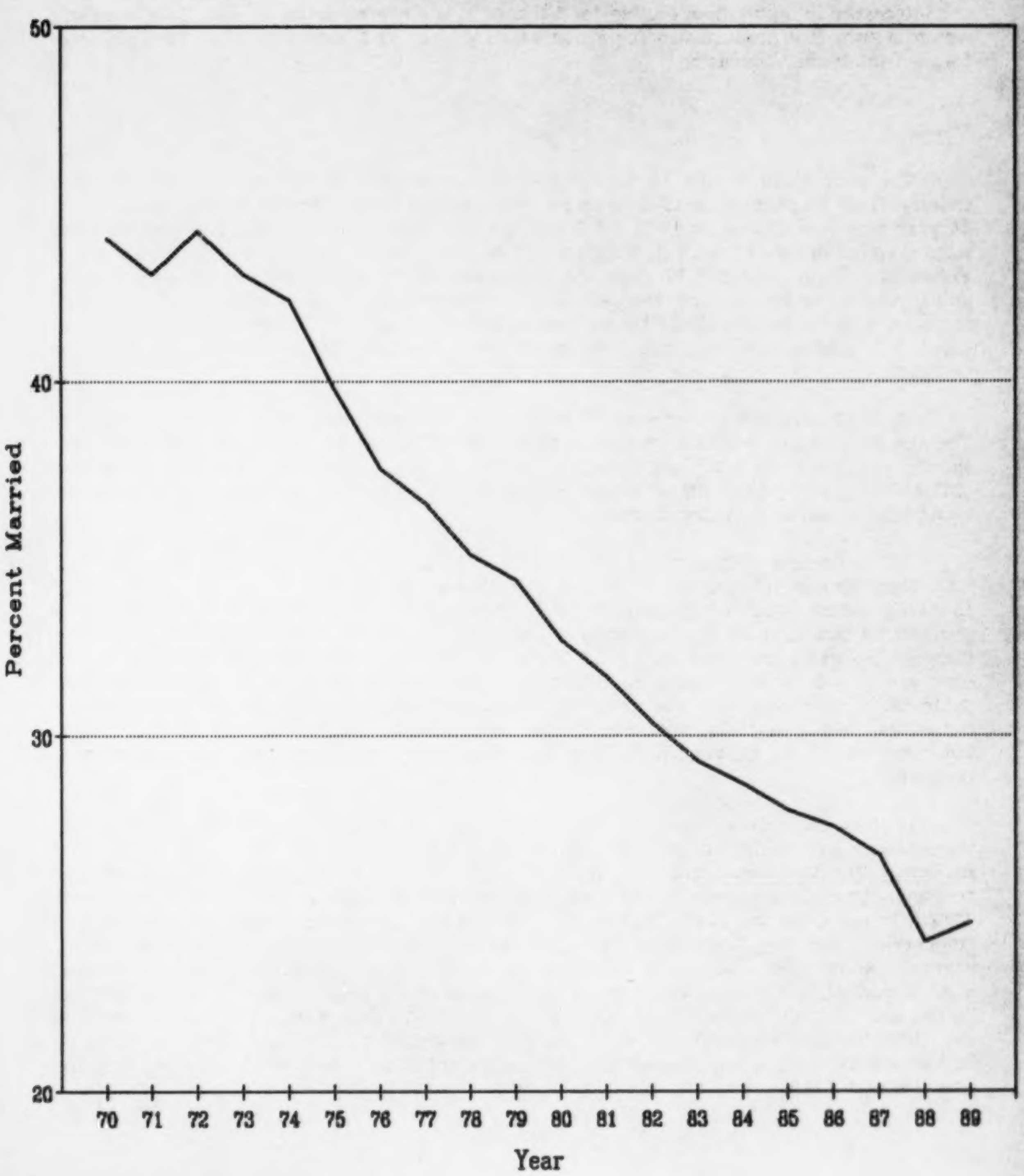
The proportion of the 18 to 24 year old population that is married has dropped sharply, from 44 percent in 1970 to 25 percent by 1989. Although the population of 18 to 24 year olds was similar in 1970 (20.6 million) and 1989 (20.5 million), the number that were married dropped from 9.1 million to 5.1 million. The proportion married is shown in Figure 10. Figures 11 and 12 show the marriage rate over the last two decades among young adults by gender and race/ethnicity, respectively. Males are less likely than females, and blacks less likely than either whites or Hispanics, to be married. For each population group, however, marriage rates have declined sharply during the last two decades.

By 1989 only one out of four 18 to 24 year olds was married with spouse present. The family incomes for this group are the earnings of the 18 to 24 year old plus their spouse, not their parents. As a result, median family income is lower for this group ($22,430 in 1989) than unmarried persons ($35,447 in 1989); in most cases, parental income is the basis of family income.

The decline in the proportion of 18 to 24 year olds that are married and living with their spouse introduces a variable of unknown significance into this study. Our focus will be on trends and patterns in the educational attainment of 18 to 24 years olds grouped by quartiles of family income. But if the decline in marriage rates is produced disproportionately from one portion of the family income range, then some portion of the observed trends and patterns in educational attainment may be due to trends and patterns in marriage separate from high school graduation and college participation behaviors. Unfortunately, our data do not permit us to isolate the changing marriage behaviors of 18 to 24 year olds from the enrollment behaviors that are our central concern.

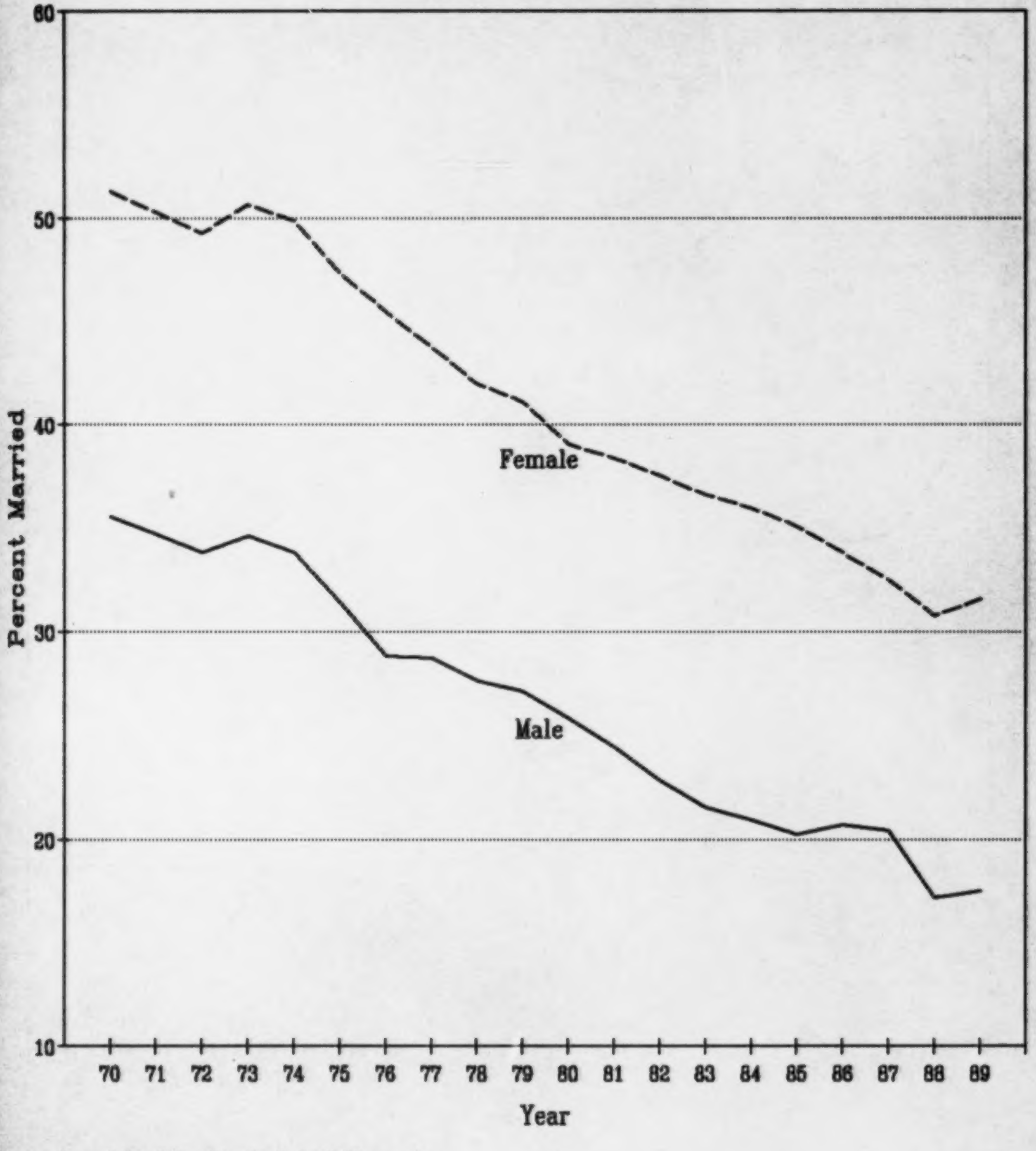
In this paper we refer to those who are not "married, spouse present" as unmarried. Generally, but not always, these are dependent children living with their parents. The unmarried group includes a small number of young adults who are not "dependent family members." The Census Bureau did not begin publishing such data until 1987. In the data for 1987, 1988, and 1989, about 6 percent of those who are labeled "unmarried" are not "dependent family members" but are "other marital and family status." About three-fourths of this group is female. For consistency over the twenty year period of this study, we have added the data on "dependent family members" and "other marital and family status" together for the last three years. The unmarried data for 1970 through 1989 are therefore defined consistently, although the proportion of "other marital and family status" that is "dependent family members" is known only for 1987 through 1989.

FIGURE 10
MARRIED PROPORTION OF POPULATION AGE 18 TO 24 YEARS OLD
1970 TO 1989



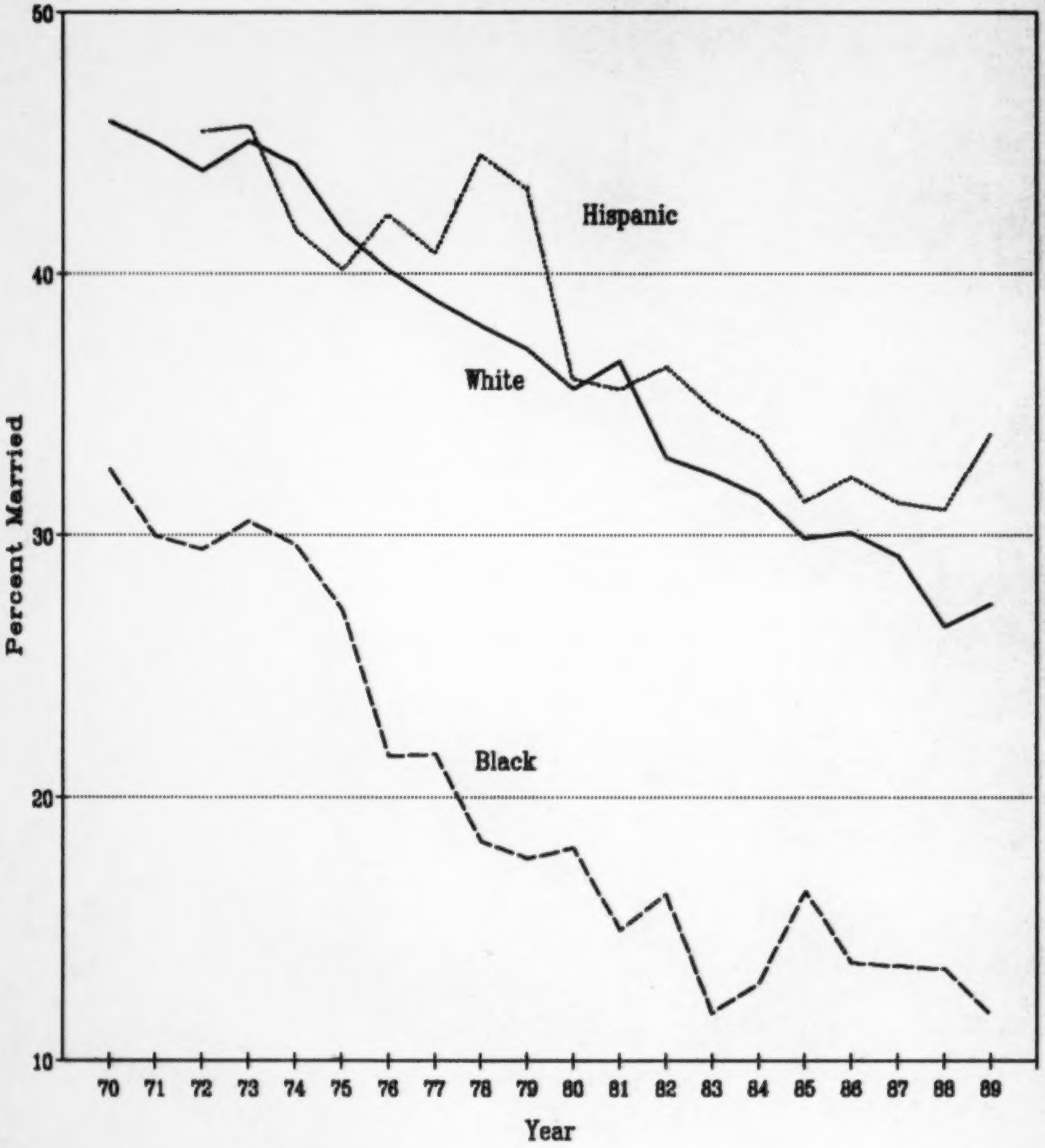
Source: Current Population Reports, Series P-20, annual.

FIGURE 11
MARRIED PROPORTION OF POPULATION AGE 18 TO 24 YEARS OLD BY GENDER
1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Reports, Series P-20, annual.

FIGURE 12
MARRIED PROPORTION OF POPULATION AGE 18 TO 24 YEARS OLD BY RACE\ETHNICITY 1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Reports, Series P-20, annual.

The small group of divorced, separated, and widowed who fall under "other marital and family status" could affect the data developed for this study and reported in this paper in several ways. First, because these are largely female headed families, they are likely to be very low income. To the extent their share of the unmarried group has increased over the last twenty years, they could be pulling the lowest quartile income limit downward over time. We have no data to address this question other than for 1987 through 1989, but its potential for distorting our data cannot be dismissed.

Second, despite the progress made by women generally in both high school graduation and college participation since 1970, young women from these very low income families are not obvious candidates for college. To the extent they have become a larger share of the low family income quartile over the last 20 years, some portion of the problem of college participation from the bottom quartile could be attributed to this fact alone. But because we have no data on this group prior to 1987, the effect of this subgroup on the data for all unmarried cannot be described.

High School Graduation for the Unmarried

A prerequisite for admission to college is high school graduation. Having now disaggregated the population into unmarried and married 18 to 24 year olds, we will examine the high school graduation experience for the unmarried population. Further, knowing to which family unit family income refers, we can examine high school graduation rates from different family income backgrounds of the unmarried population.

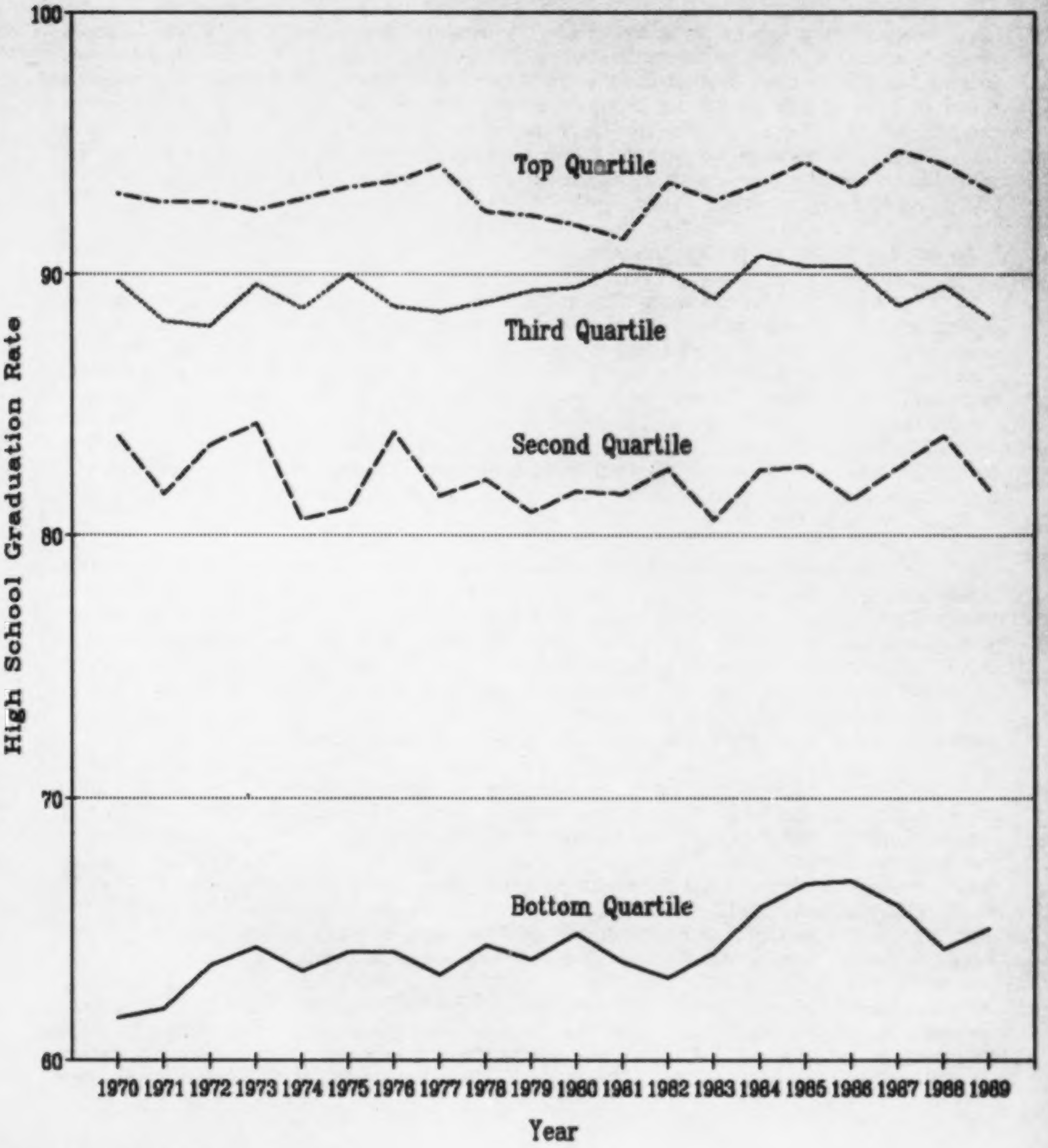
Between 1970 and 1989, the proportion of 18 to 24 year olds that had graduated from high school increased, from 79.9 to 80.5 percent. During this 20 year period, the high school graduation rate fluctuated between a low of 79.2 percent in 1971 and a high of 82.0 percent in 1985.

The nearly insignificant improvement in high school graduation rates over this period stands in sharp contrast to the announced goals of national leadership to increase the nation's high school graduation rate to 90 percent by 1990. Secretary of Education Terrel Bell first announced this national goal in 1983. President Reagan announced the same goal in 1984. More recently, in January of 1990, President Bush announced the same goal, but pushed back the deadline for reaching it to 2000 (Olson, 1990). At the rate of improvement experienced over the last 20 years, instead of reaching the 90 percent goal by the year 2000 the goal will be reached by the year 2317.

High school graduation rates by quartiles of family income for unmarried high school graduates age 18 to 24 years are shown in Figure 13. In 1989, the highest family income quartile included incomes greater than $58,125. The third quartile of family income included incomes of between $35,447 and $58,125. By this measure, median family income for unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates was $35,447 in 1989. The second quartile included incomes of between $20,017 and $35,447. The bottom quartile included family incomes of less than $20,017. See Table 18 in the Appendix for the family income quartile definitions for prior years.

The family income groups with high school graduation rates below 90 percent are apparent in Figure 13. They are the bottom two quartiles of the family income distribution, and especially the bottom quartile. This group had a high school graduation rate of about 65 percent in 1989. From the second quartile of family income, the high

FIGURE 13
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED 18 TO 24 YEAR OLDS
1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

school graduation rate was about 82 percent in 1989. Above the median family income of unmarried high school graduates of $35,400, high school graduation rates are generally close to or above the 90 percent level, especially during the 1980s.

The high school graduation rate gap between the bottom and top quartiles of the family income distribution is shown in Figure 14. The gap is the difference between the high school graduation rates for the top and bottom quartiles of family income for each of the twenty years under study. This chart shows almost imperceptible reductions in high school graduation rate differences between 1970 and 1989. In fact, what is most striking about Figure 12 is that so little progress has been made to reduce this difference during a period when political leaders identified correction of the problem as a national goal.

Gender. High school graduation rates for unmarried 18 to 24 year old males are shown by family income quartiles in Figure 15. Overall, male high school graduation rates remained nearly unchanged between 1970 and 1989 at 78 percent of the population. The lack of change is apparent within each of the family income quartiles as well. Thus, the gap in the high school graduation rates between the bottom and top quartiles of family incomes for males remained largely unchanged during the last twenty years.

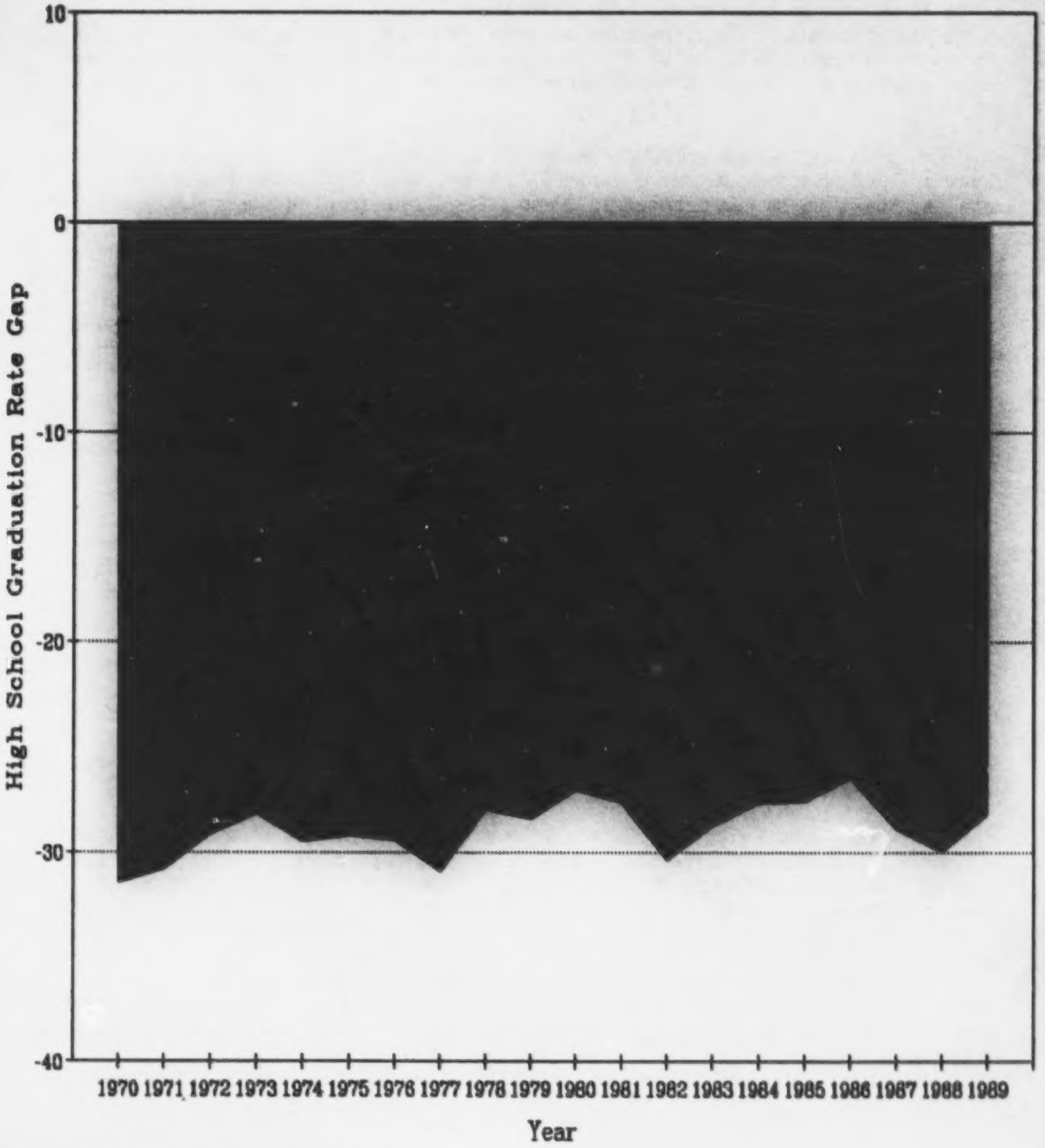
The high school graduation rates for unmarried 18 to 24 year old females increased slightly between 1970 and 1989, from about 82 to about 84 percent. As shown in Figure 17, this increase occurred primarily in the bottom quartile of family income, from 63 percent in 1970 to about 68 percent by 1989. In each of the higher family income quartiles, the high school graduation rate for women declined between 1970 and 1989. As a result of the increase in high school graduate rates in the bottom quartile and the slight decrease in the top quartile, the high school graduation rate gap for low family income females has closed over the last two decades, as shown in Figure 18.

Race/ethnicity. We have also examined high school graduation rates for unmarried 18 to 24 year old whites, blacks, and Hispanics. By deduction we have also examined high school graduation rates for those of "other race" than white or black, namely and mainly Asians.

White high school graduation rates overall were nearly 84 percent in 1989, or about the same as 1970. For each of the different family income quartiles, as shown in Figure 19, high school graduation rates have remained about flat during the last two decades. As a result, the high school graduation rate gap has remained about constant, as shown in Figure 20. In other words, there has been no progress in closing the gap for low income whites over the last two decades.

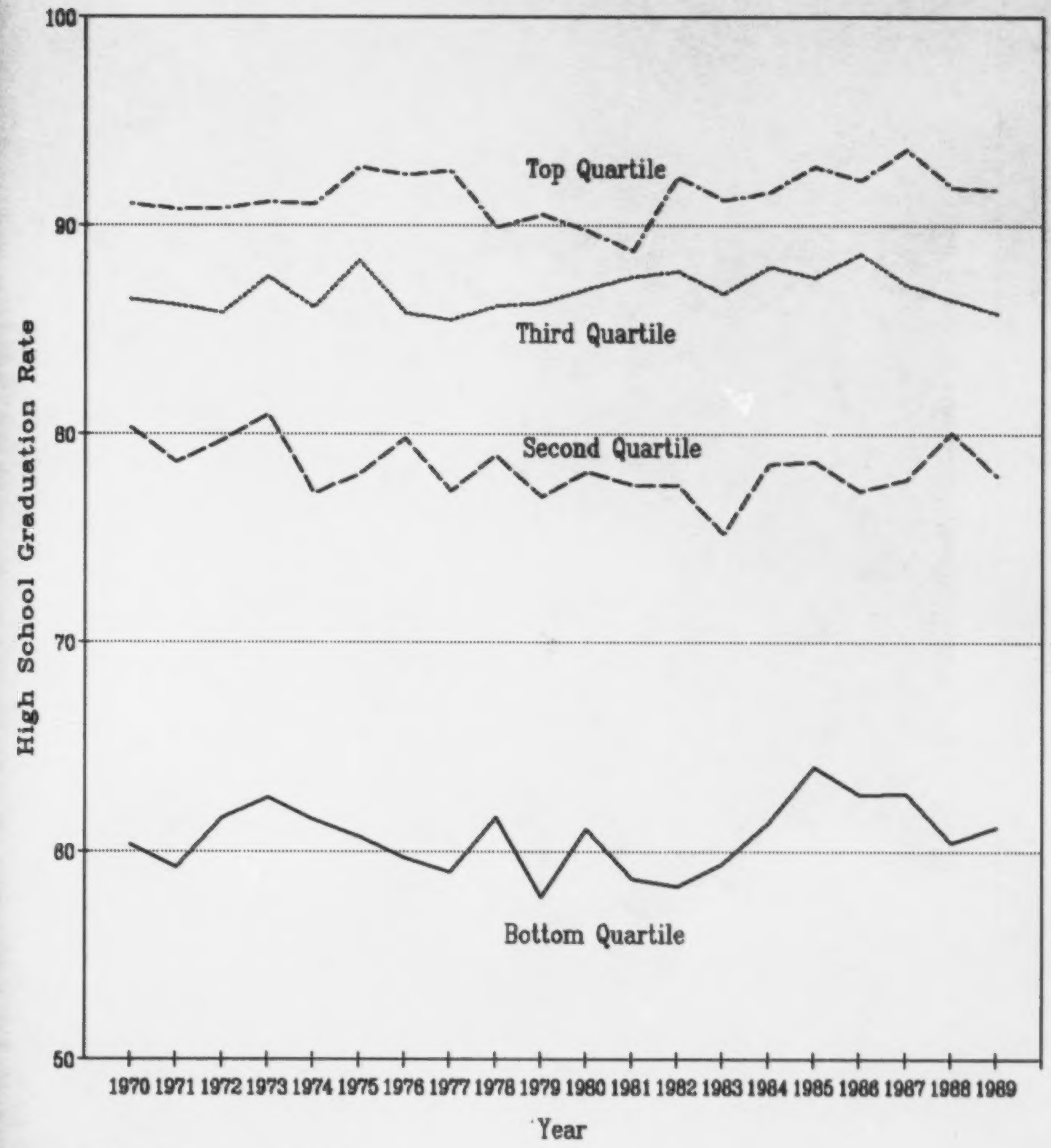
Black high school graduation rates, unlike those for whites, have increased sharply during the last two decades from 58 percent in 1970 to nearly 73 percent by 1989. This increase has occurred in each of the four family income quartiles, although at different times for different family income groups, as shown in Figure 21. In the top two quartiles, the increase in high school graduation rates occurred between 1970 and 1975, and the rates have remained stable or declined slightly since then. In the bottom two quartiles, the increase in rates has been more gradual and persistent over the last twenty years. By 1989 high school graduation rates from the bottom two quartiles of family income were close to record highs for the last twenty years. As a result of these differing patterns, the high school graduation rate gap for the bottom family income quartile students has closed somewhat over the last 15 years. This is shown in Figure 22.

FIGURE 14
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE GAP FOR BOTTOM QUARTILE OF FAMILY INCOME FOR UNMARRIED 18 TO 24 YEAR OLDS
1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

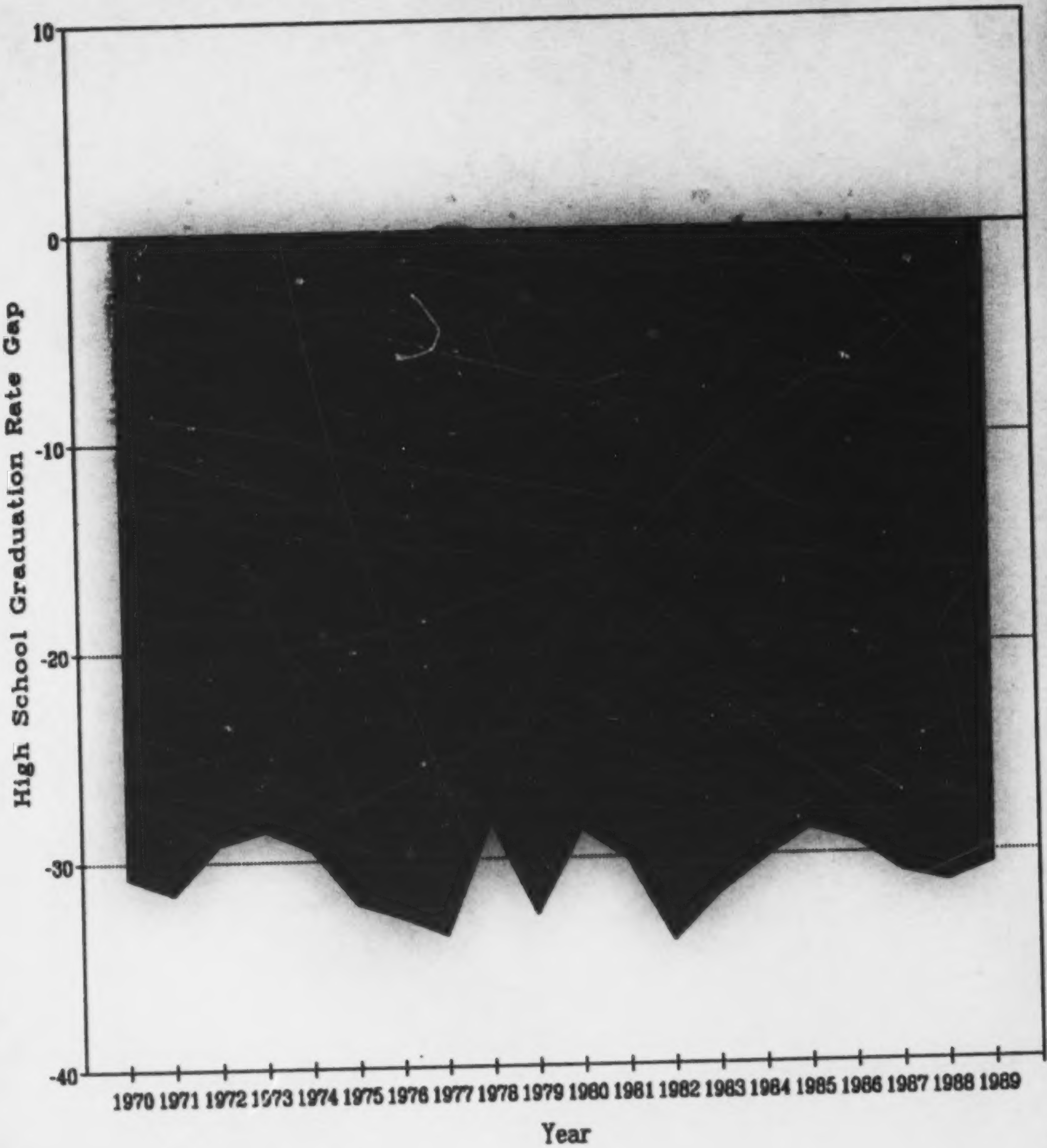
FIGURE 15
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED MALES 18 TO 24 YEARS 1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

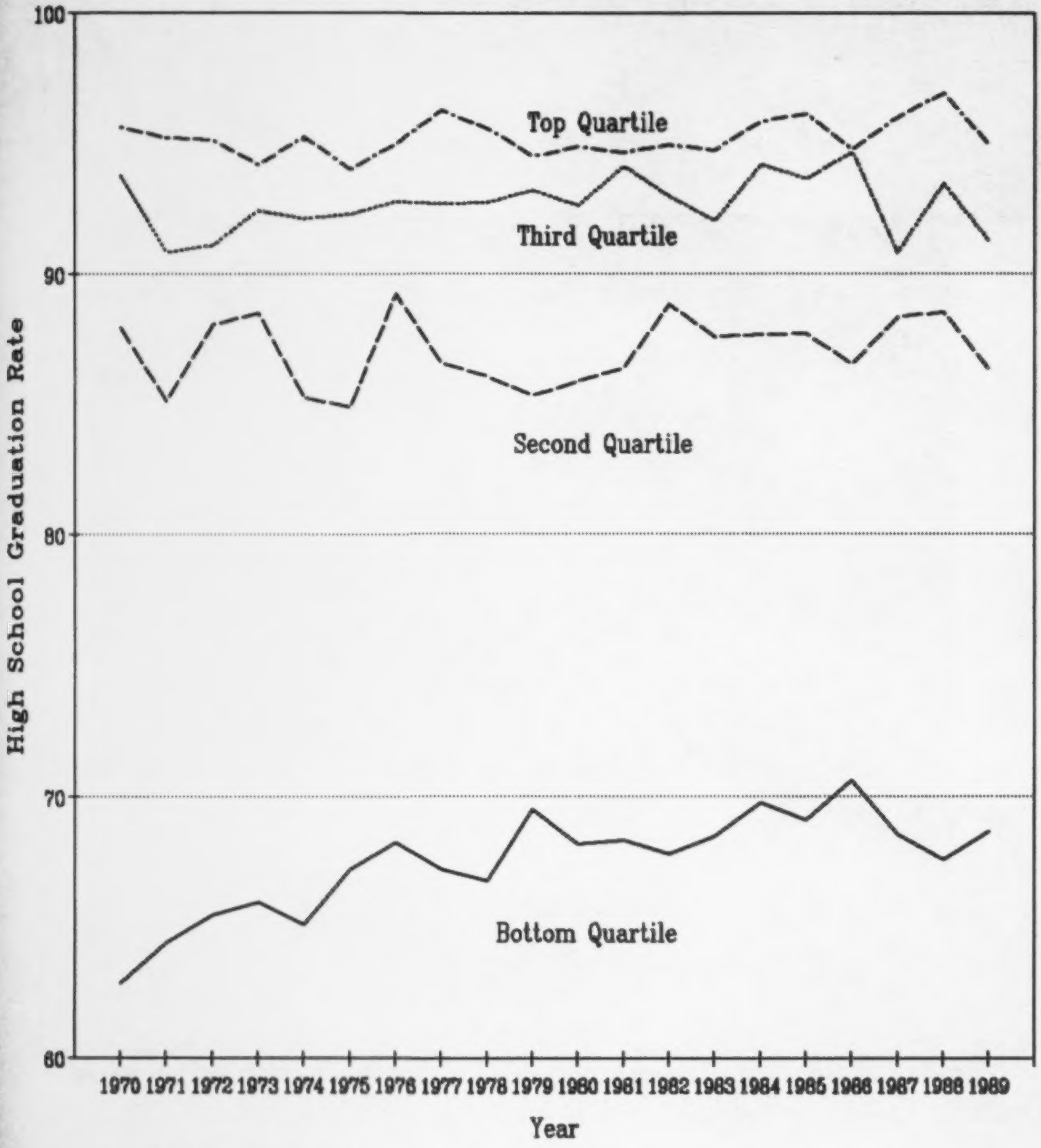
FIGURE 16

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE GAP FOR BOTTOM QUARTILE OF FAMILY INCOME FOR UNMARRIED MALES 18 TO 24 YEARS 1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

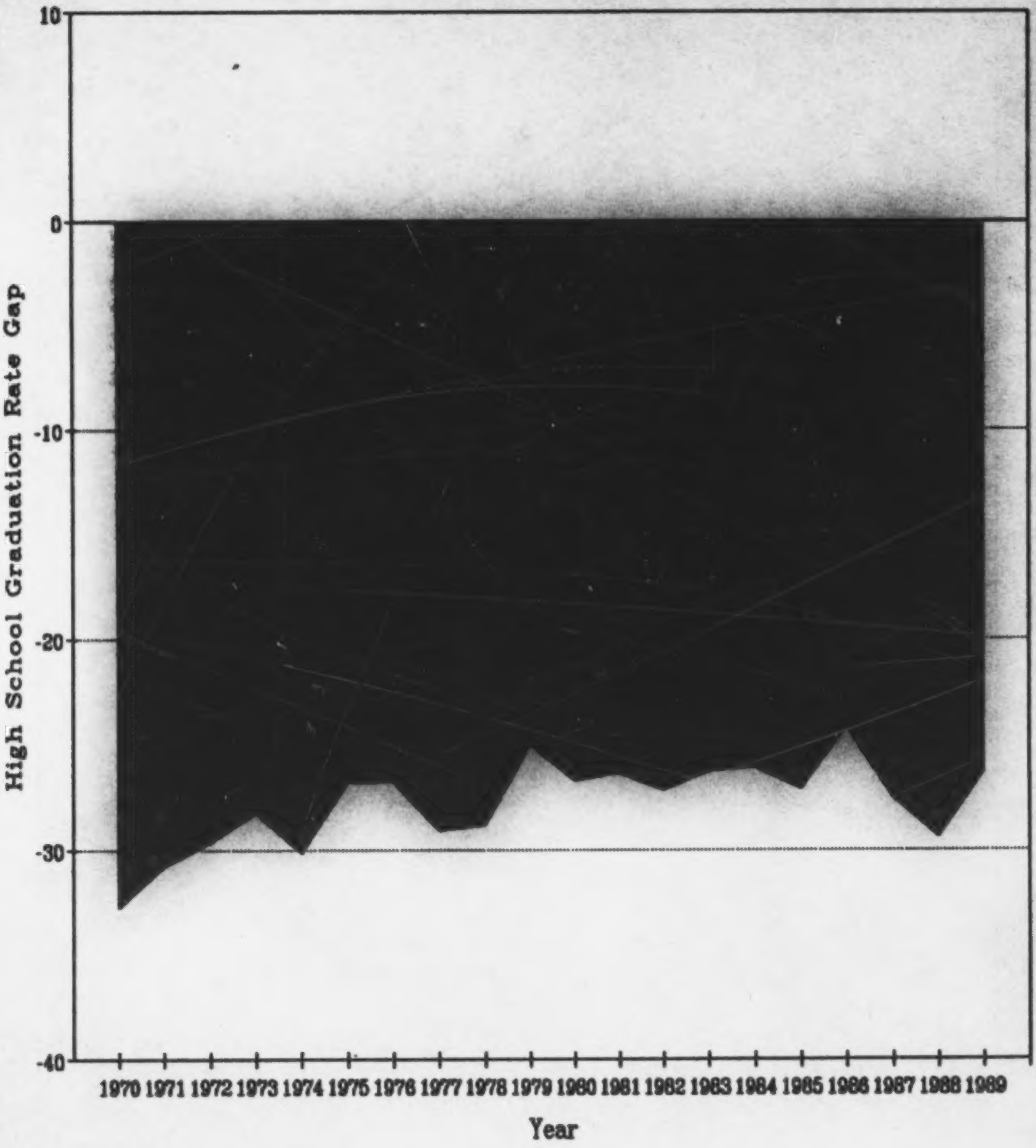
FIGURE 17
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED FEMALES 18 TO 24 YEARS
1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

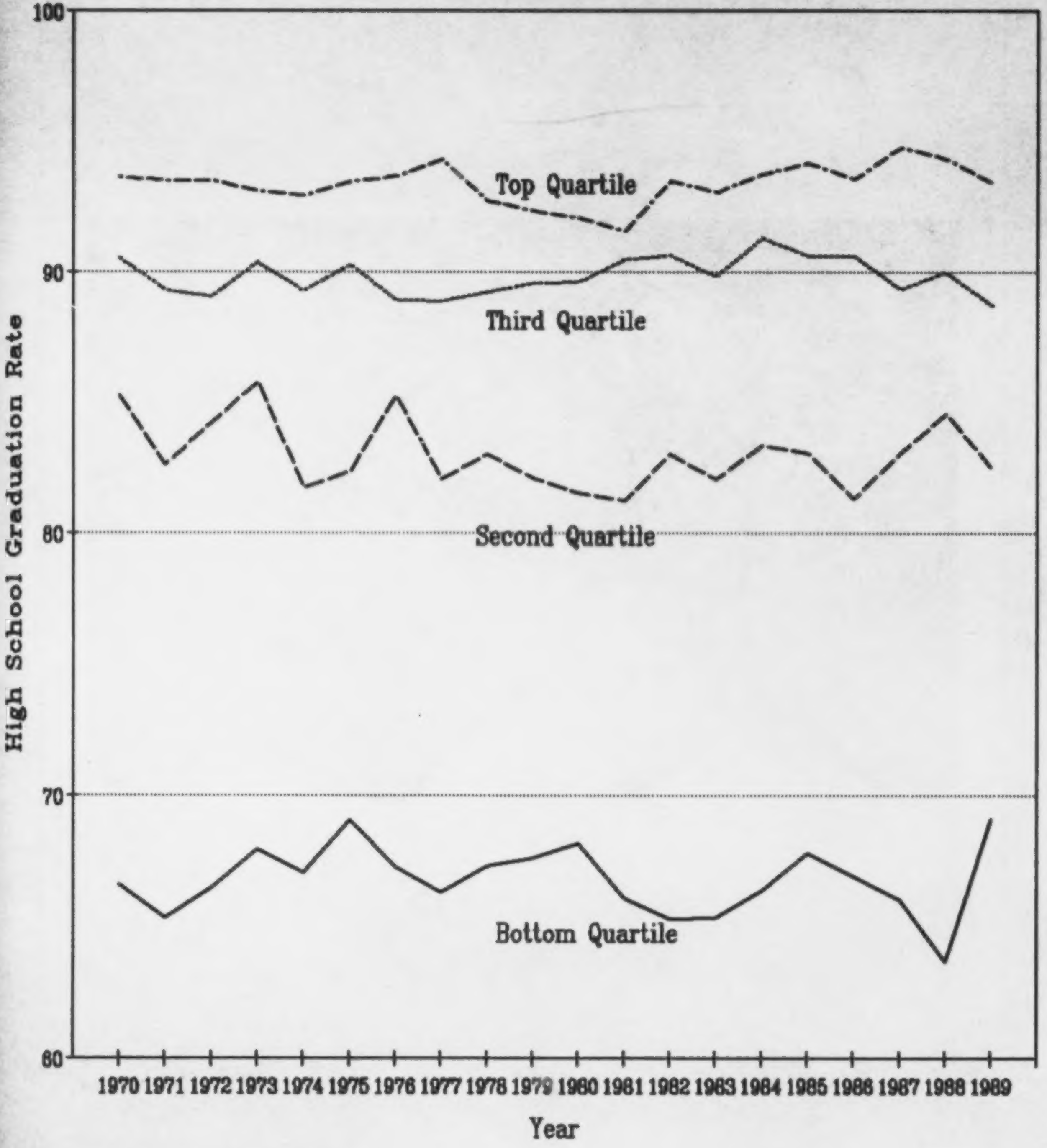
FIGURE 18

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE GAP FOR BOTTOM QUARTILE OF FAMILY INCOME FOR UNMARRIED FEMALES 18 TO 24 YEARS 1970 TO 1989



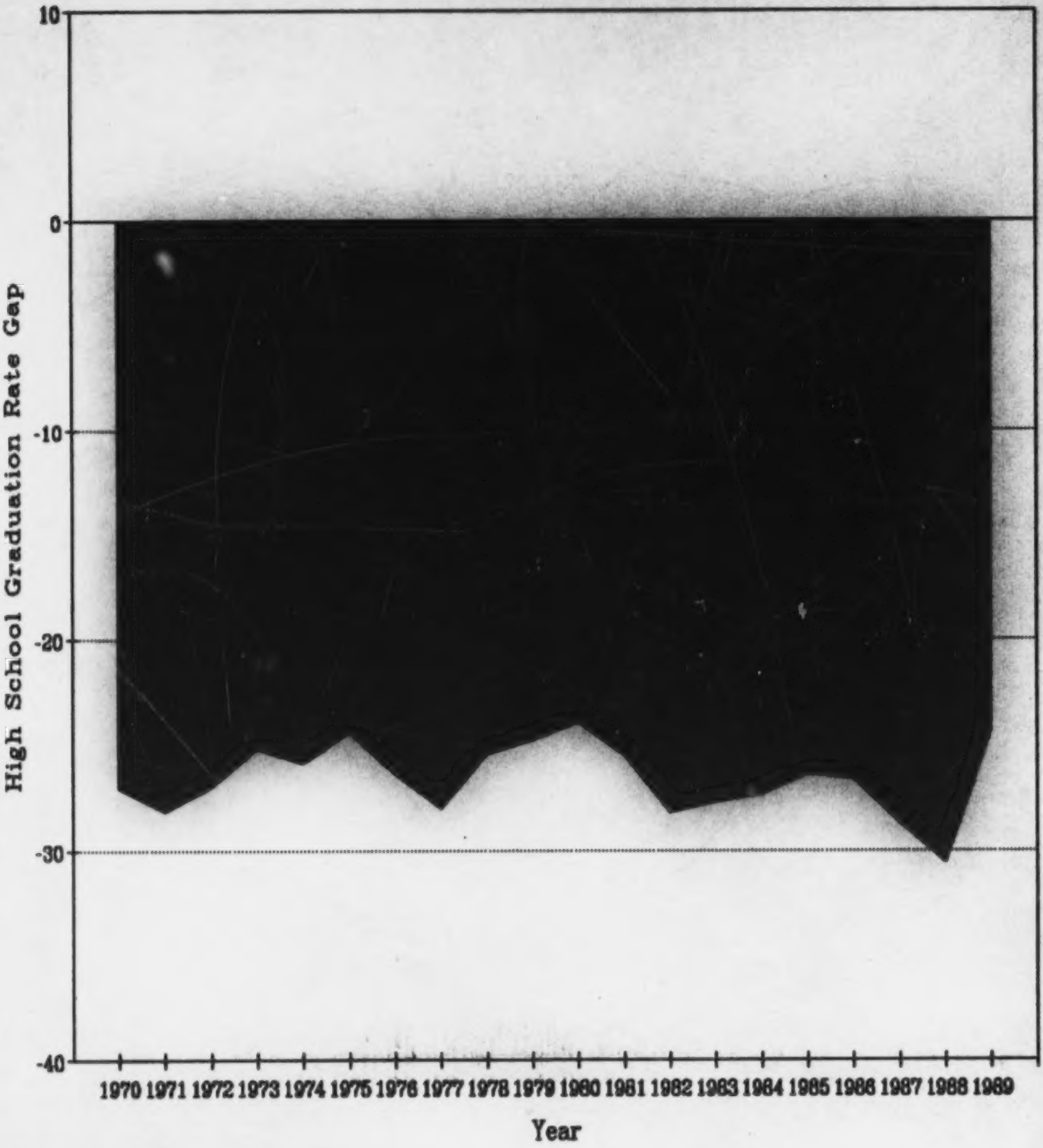
Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

FIGURE 19
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED WHITES 18 TO 24 YEARS
1970 TO 1989



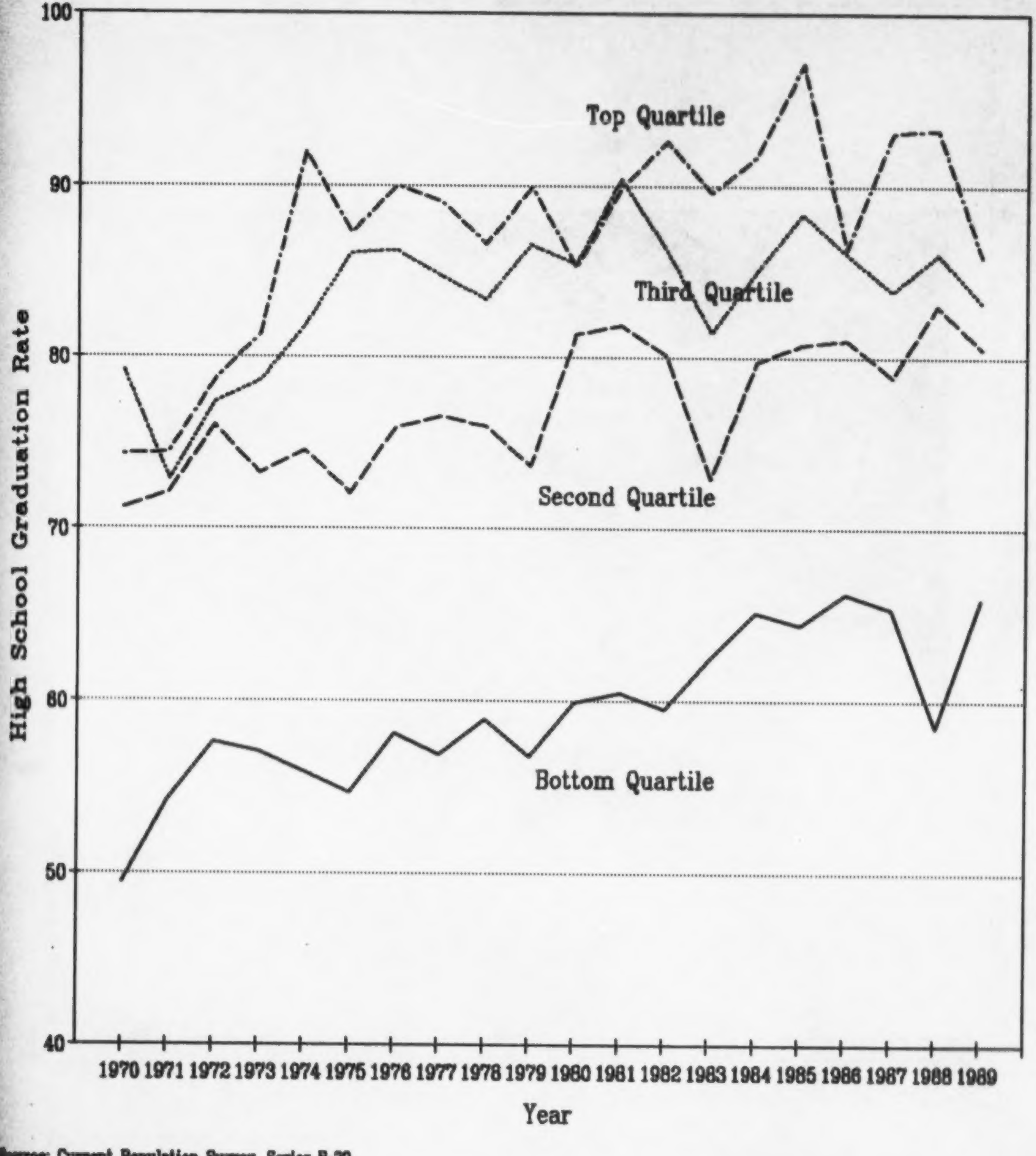
Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

FIGURE 20
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE GAP FOR BOTTOM QUARTILE OF FAMILY INCOME FOR UNMARRIED WHITES 18 TO 24 YEARS
1970 TO 1989



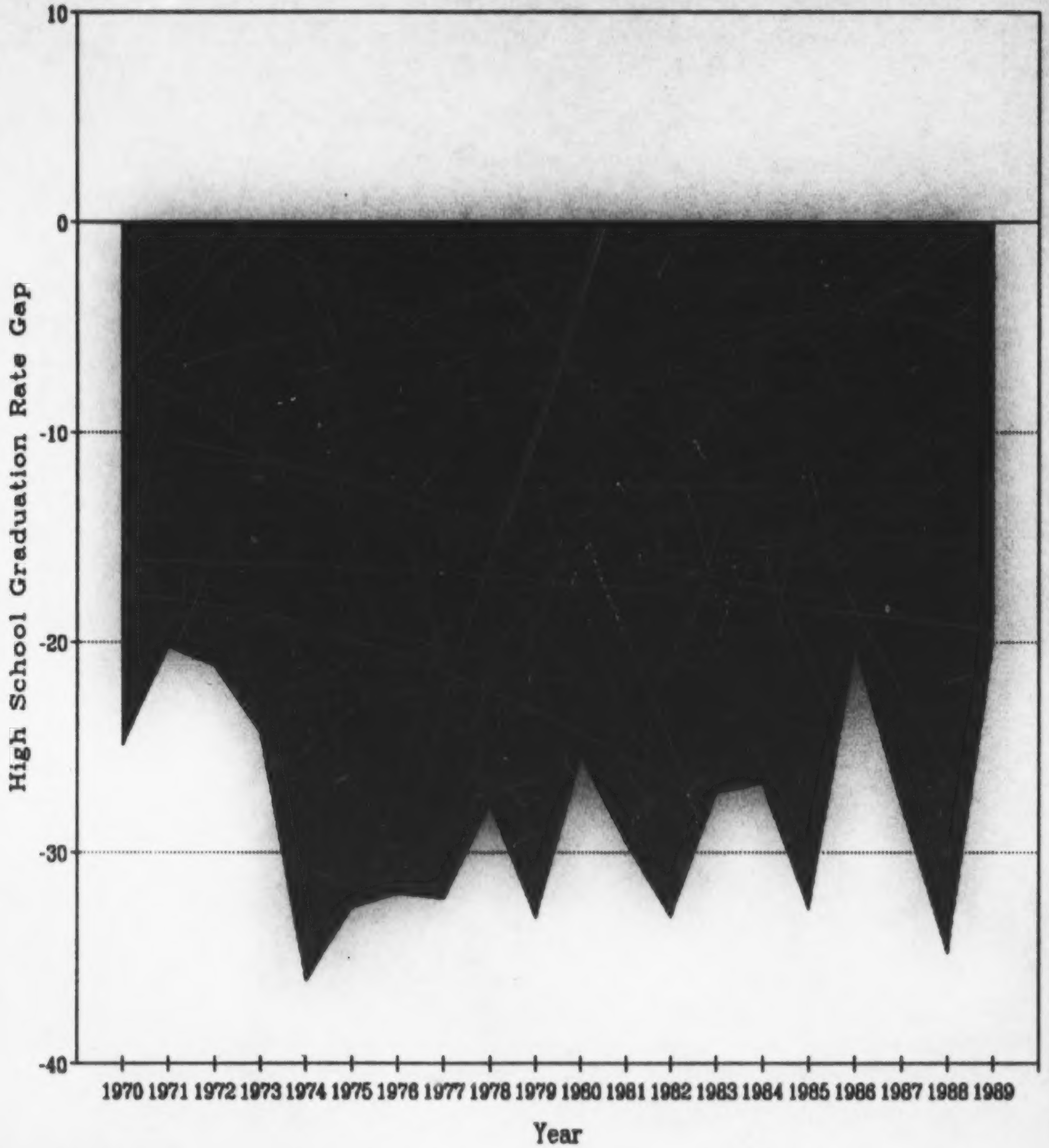
Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

FIGURE 21
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED BLACKS 18 TO 24 YEARS
1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

FIGURE 22
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE GAP FOR BOTTOM QUARTILE OF FAMILY INCOME FOR UNMARRIED BLACKS 18 TO 24 YEARS
1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

Hispanic high school graduation rates are lower than for any other demographic group. In 1989, the proportion of unmarried 18 to 24 year old Hispanics who were high school graduates was 62 percent, compared to 73 percent for blacks and 84 percent for whites. However, overall Hispanic high school graduation rates have shown some improvement over the last eighteen years. Figure 23 shows Hispanic high school graduation rates by family income quartiles. Especially in the second and third quartiles, high school graduation rates have increased over the last eighteen years. In the top and bottom quartiles, however, graduation rates have dropped off in the last few years. This may be a result of statistical noise present in the sampled data, particularly in the top quartile where Hispanic numbers are relatively small. Figure 24 suggests that there has been no apparent improvement in the high school graduation rates for Hispanics from the bottom family income quartile to those from the top quartile since the early 1970s.

We have calculated (but not charted) high school graduation rates for unmarried 18 to 24 year olds from the "other race" category. These data are shown in Table 7 of the Appendix. These numbers are small, but clearly growing over the last twenty years. The data suggest that those who identified themselves as "other race" to Current Population Survey interviewers have high school graduation rates similar to those for whites.

Distribution by gender and race/ethnicity. An important aspect of understanding the trends and patterns presented in Figures 13 through 24 is the composition of each quartile over time, and how the quartiles differ from each in terms of demographic composition at any given year. These data are presented in the Appendix Table 9 for unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates.

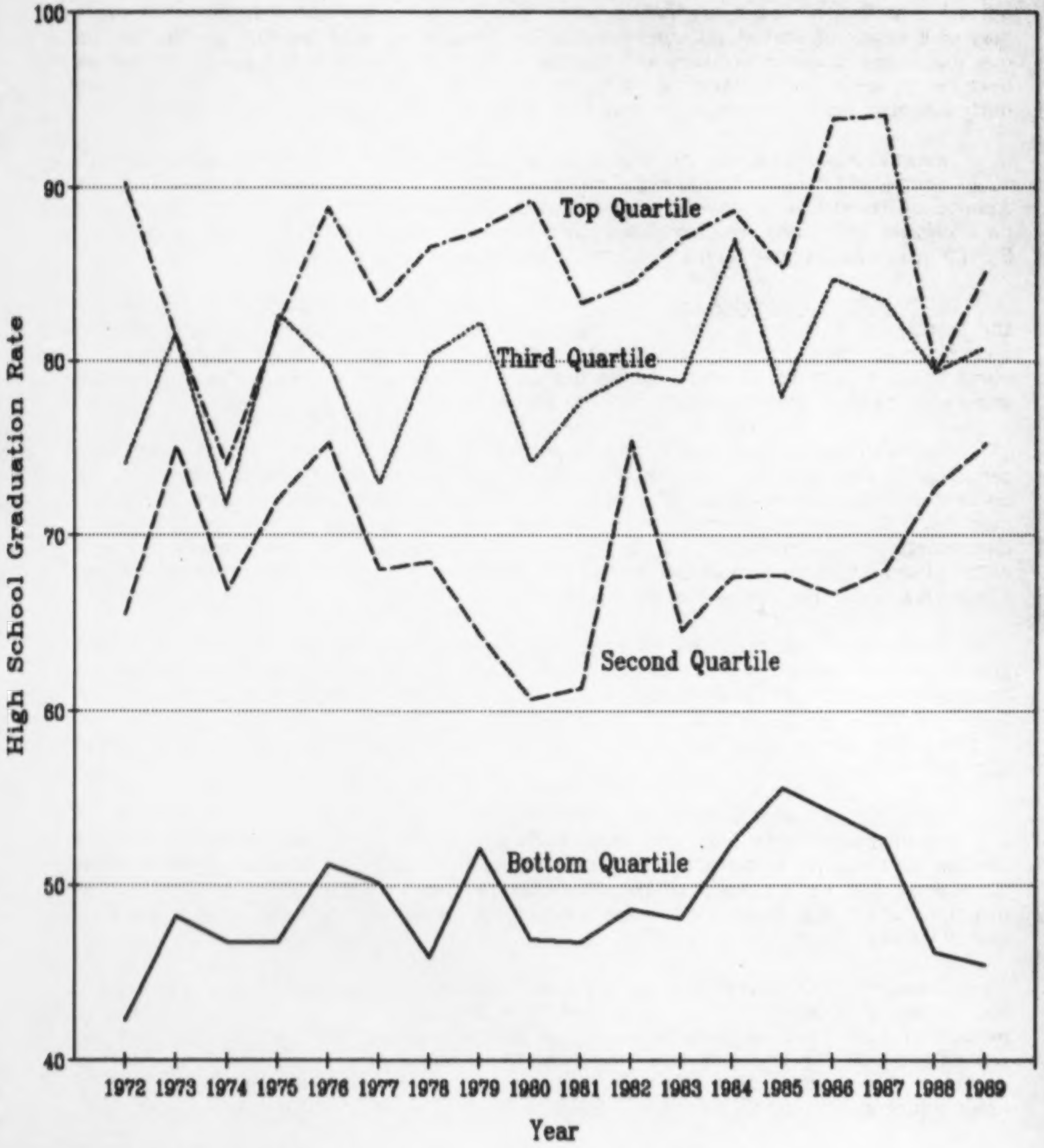
Females, for example, constitute 48 percent of all unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates in 1989. But they constitute 54 percent of the bottom quartile, 47 percent of the second quartile, 47 percent of the third quartile, and 46 percent of the top quartile. Clearly, unmarried 18 to 24 year old female high school graduates are disproportionately concentrated in the bottom quartile of the family income distribution. And, by deduction, males are disproportionately concentrated in the top three quartiles of the family income distribution.

Other important distributions are those by race and ethnicity. White high school graduates, for example, constitute 81 percent of the high school graduates in 1989 (down from 88 percent in 1970). By family income quartiles, they constitute 63 percent of the bottom quartile, 80 percent of the second quartile, 88 percent of the third quartile, and 93 percent of the top quartile. Clearly, whites represent higher average family incomes than nonwhites.

Black high school graduates constitute 16 percent of all unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates in 1989 (compared to 11 percent in 1970). But they constitute 34 percent of those from the bottom quartile of family income, 17 percent of those from the second quartile, 9 percent of the third quartile, and 4 percent of those from the top quartile. Black high school graduates are largely concentrated in the lowest range of family income.

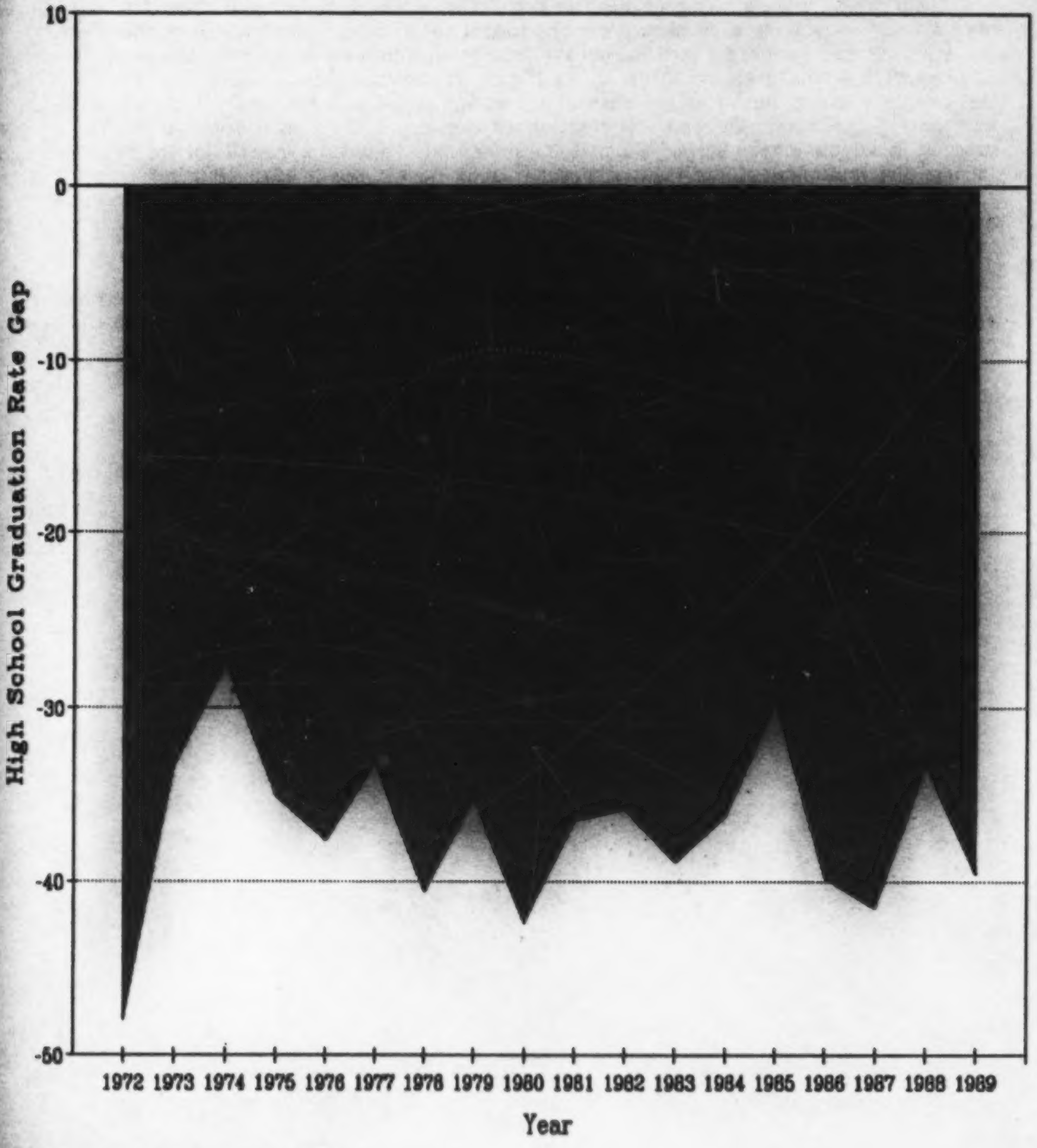
Hispanic high school graduates make up 7 percent of all unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates in 1989 (compared to 4 percent in 1972). They constitute 11 percent of those from the bottom quartile of family income, 9 percent of those from the second quartile, 6 percent of those from the third, and 3 percent of those from the top quartile. Like blacks, Hispanic high school graduates are concentrated in low family income ranges.

FIGURE 23
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED HISPANICS 18 TO 24 YEARS
1972 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

FIGURE 24
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE GAP FOR BOTTOM QUARTILE OF FAMILY INCOME FOR UNMARRIED HISPANIC 18 TO 24 YEARS
1972 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

Summary

Family income is clearly, strongly, persistently, and pervasively related to chances of graduating from high school by the time a person is 18 to 24 years of age. This is true for every major demographic slice of the population: male, female, white, black, other race, and Hispanic. It was true in 1970, and it has been true each year through 1989.

One of the most striking findings in this study is the persistence of these findings over a period when the federal government sought to improve educational opportunities for students in elementary and secondary education and announced national goals to improve high school graduation rates. As Figure 11 shows, progress was made over the last twenty years in improving the chances for an unmarried young adult from the bottom quartile of the family income distribution to become a high school graduate. This progress is all the more notable when we consider that the bottom quartile of the family income distribution was significantly poorer in 1989 than it was in 1970. But in terms of the announced national goal of increasing the high school graduation rate to 90 percent of the population first by 1990, and now by 2000, the current rate of progress is clearly inadequate.

What little progress there was in improving the high school graduation rate was concentrated in just two demographic slices of the population—blacks and women. The progress was not shared by men, whites, or Hispanics during the last twenty years.

III. College Participation of Unmarried High School Graduates

Three quarters of the 18 to 24 year old high school graduates in 1989 were unmarried. This is up from two thirds in 1980, and about 57 percent in 1970, as young adults defer marriage. Because unmarrieds form the largest group and the group on which parental income background is available, we will analyze the college participation behaviors of this group.

The unmarried group corresponds largely to the dependent student population in student financial aid. In 1989, the Census Bureau reported that 94 percent of the unmarried high school graduates were "dependent family members." The new classification appeared in 1987, and thus only three years of data under the new system are available. The proportions of dependent family members varied by gender, where 97 percent of the males and 91 percent of the females were dependents, and by race and ethnicity, where 95 percent of the whites, 89 percent of the blacks, and 91 percent of the Hispanics were dependent family members. The remaining 6 percent were classified as "other marital and family status." This group includes persons who were divorced, separated, or widowed, three quarters of whom were female in 1989.

College Participation by All Unmarried High School Graduates

The college participation rates of all unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates generally declined between 1970 and 1979, and then increased during the 1980s. These rates dropped from 61 percent in 1970, to 56 percent by 1979, and have since risen to nearly 62 percent in 1989. The 1988 figure of 62.5 percent is the highest recorded during the last two decades.

Significantly, not all groups within the population experienced this pattern. As we will show shortly, the decline between 1970 and 1979 is entirely attributable to a substantial decline in male college participation rates during the 1970s. The rate for females actually increased slightly during this period.

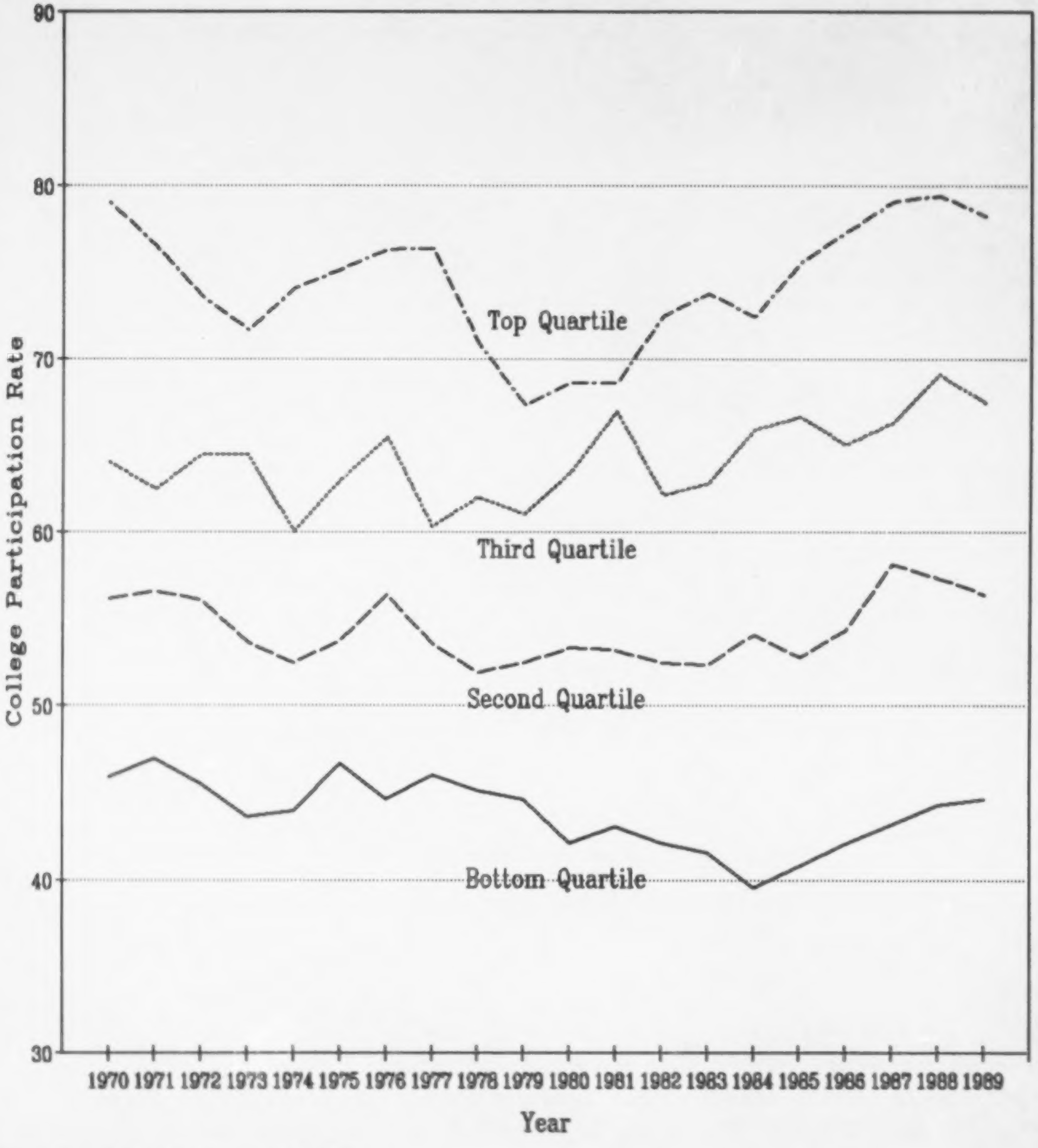
For purposes of this paper, we are primarily interested in the college participation behaviors of people from different family income backgrounds. We have divided the population of unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates into four equal quartiles of the population based on family income, and we compare the college participation rates for each quartile to each other over the 20 year time span of available data. These quartiles have different income limit definitions for each year of the study due to the effects of inflation on incomes, and due to the effects of the redistribution of family income in America since the early 1970s. For 1989 the income limits of the four quartiles were as follows:

	Range
Bottom quartile	0 to $20,017
Second quartile	$20,018 to $35,447
Third quartile	$35,448 to $58,125
Top quartile	over $58,125

The income limits for each quartile for other years of this study are reported in Table 18 in the Appendix to this paper.

The college participation rates for unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates from each quartile of family income are charted in Figure 25. This chart

FIGURE 25
COLLEGE PARTICIPATION RATES BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED 18 TO 24 YEAR OLD HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES
1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

illustrates the basic pattern of college participation that appears later in this report, just as it did earlier for high school graduation. College participation rates are directly related to family income. That is to say, college participation rates are lowest for high school graduates from the bottom quartile of the family income distribution, increase with higher family income quartiles, and are highest at the top family income quartile. In 1989, 45 percent of those from the bottom family income quartile had been or were enrolled in college, compared to 56 percent of those from the second quartile, 67 percent from the third quartile, and 78 percent of those from the top quartile of family income.

The differences in college participation rates between family income levels in 1989 have persisted throughout the years since 1970. Family income is one contributing factor to the differences in college participation. But it is also a proxy measure for a wide variety of other factors that influence college participation behavior, including family and school environments and experiences. These factors will be addressed in a future ACT study.

In the top two quartiles of family income, college participation rates reached their highest levels in 1988. In the second quartile, college participation rates peaked in 1987, and were just below that peak in 1988 and 1989.

However, a very different picture exists for high school graduates whose family incomes placed them in the bottom quartile. Here, despite some increase since 1984, the college participation rate in 1989 was below rates reached in the early 1970s. Here we see the second principal finding of this study: **while college participation rates increased in the 1980s over the 1970s for unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates from the top three quarters of the family income distribution, they decreased for those from the bottom quartile.**

We will pursue this finding from the perspective of equity of higher educational opportunity, a goal of federal and state higher educational policy since passage of the federal Higher Education Act in 1965. Our measure of equity of higher educational opportunity will be the difference in the college participation rates of unmarried high school graduates from the top and bottom family income quartiles. When this difference is reduced over time, we are moving toward equity. When this difference increases, we are moving away from equity.

The assumption guiding this approach is that those in the top quartile of family income are immune only to the influence of governmental policies and programs designed to assist the economically disadvantaged student. Students from top family income quartiles are likely to be influenced by a more limited range of influences--the changing labor market demand for college graduates, social equity movements affecting broad segments of the population, and the effects of war, military drafts, and draft deferments for college study. Such influences also operate on students from low family income backgrounds, but low income students have the added influence of governmental programs targeted on their collegiate enrollment behaviors.

Given the role played by higher education in improving one's wealth and status in life, the equity component of higher educational opportunity provides the means by which disadvantaged populations may seek the rewards and benefits our social and economic system offers to those educated and trained to take advantage of them. Those not prepared have greatly diminished opportunities to improve their welfare, and in fact are likely to experience a declining living standard throughout their adult lives, as has been the case since 1973 for those with less than collegiate educations.

In Figure 26 we have plotted the difference in the college participation rates for unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates from the top and bottom family income quartiles. This "gap," as we use the term in this study, is very wide for every year between 1970 and 1989. However, this gap narrowed between 1970 and 1979, from 33 percent in 1970 to 23 percent by 1979. This movement toward equity reflected a relative gain in college participation for those from the bottom family income quartile of about 288,000 unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates.

One paradox of this analysis is that there was no absolute gain in the college participation rate from the bottom quartile. Rather, the relative gain was achieved by a sharp decline in the college participation rate in the top quartile of family income. If indeed the top quartile is distinguished from the bottom quartile only by family income and targeted governmental aid, and other differences affect all income groups equally over this time period, then the changes in college participation must be the result of the targeted external changes that produce different effects on the college participation rates of students from the extremes of family income.

Three conditions clearly influenced college enrollment behavior during the 1970s: the draft exemption for college males until 1973, the apparent deterioration in the job market for college graduates (Freeman, 1976), and the growth in student financial aid, especially through federal programs. The first two of these conditions operated across all income levels, but the student aid growth was clearly directed toward the lower end of the family income range. As others have suggested (Breneman, 1982, Hook, 1982), the growth in federal student aid during the 1970s may have served to avert an absolute decline in the college participation rates of the populations to which that aid was targeted.

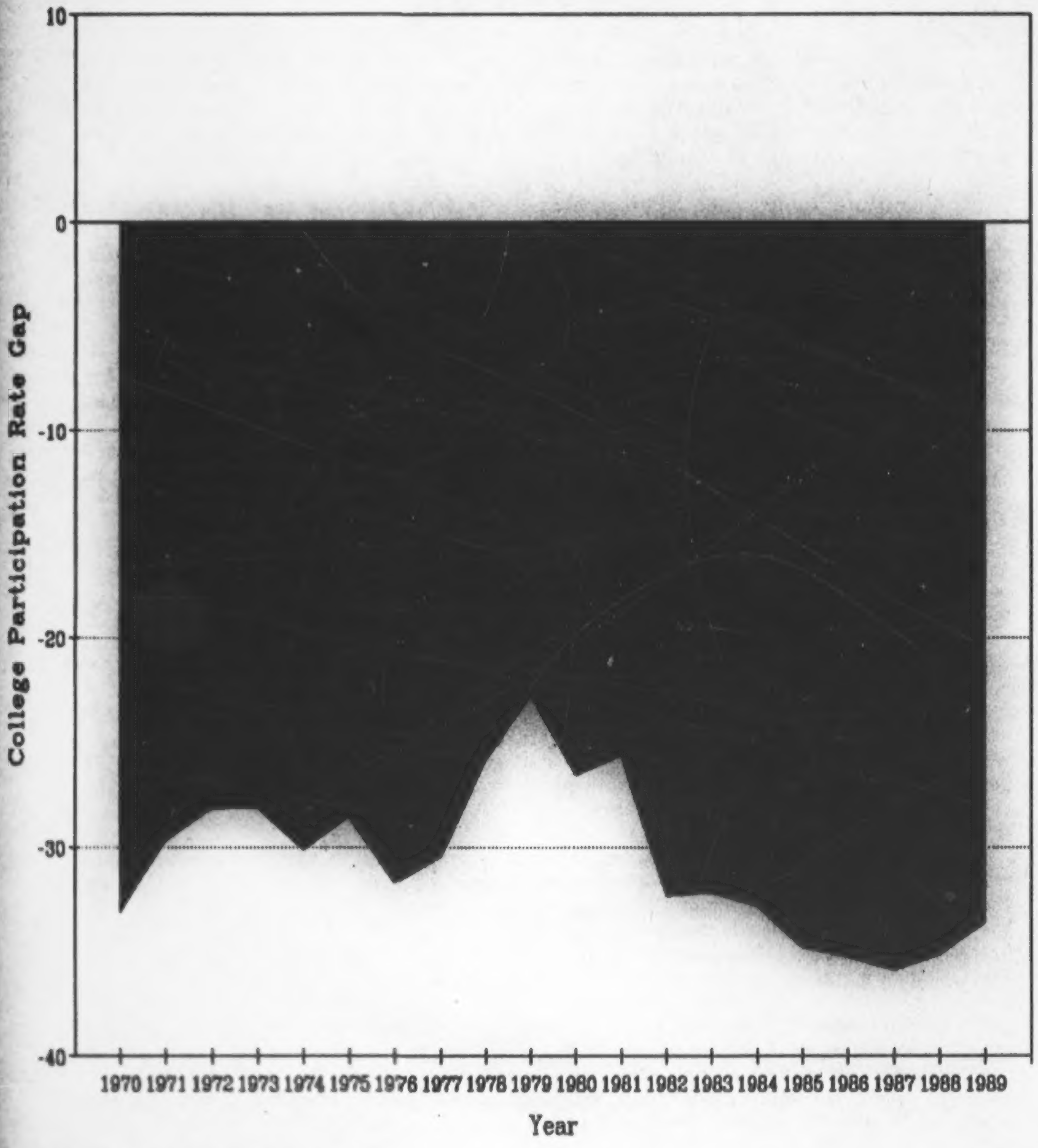
After 1979 the gap in the college participation rates of the top and bottom quartiles of family income widened. The college participation rates declined in the bottom quartile, and increased sharply in the top quartile (and in the second and third quartiles as well). The participation rate gap widened from 23 percent in 1979 to 36 percent by 1987 (and 34 percent by 1989). The college participation rate gap was greater between 1985 and 1989 than it had been at any other time during the period under study, 1970 through 1989.

The widening of this gap meant that about 312,000 fewer unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates from the bottom quartile of family income had gone to college in 1989 than would have been the case if the college participation rate gap had not widened after 1979. Instead of increasing by .04 percent between 1979 and 1989, the college participation rate in the bottom quartile would have increased by 11 percent, as it did for the top quartile students. Even in the intermediate quartiles, college participation rates increased between 1979 and 1989. In the second quartile the increase was about 4 percent, and in the third quartile the gain was 6 percent. Clearly, the problem in higher educational participation during the 1980s has been concentrated in the bottom quartile of the family income distribution.

College Participation Rates by Gender

College participation rates for males and females from the four quartiles of family income are generally similar, but with some interesting differences. Their participation rates are charted in Figures 27 and 29.

FIGURE 26
COLLEGE PARTICIPATION RATE GAP FOR BOTTOM QUARTILE OF FAMILY INCOME FOR UNMARRIED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES
1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

The similarity is mainly in the constant and strong relationships between family income and college participation rates. For both males and females, college participation rates are highest in the top quartile of family income, lower in lower quartiles, and lowest in the bottom quartile. Beyond this similarity, however, are differences worth describing in more detail.

Males. The college participation rate for unmarried male high school graduates age 18 to 24 declined from 66 percent in 1970, to 55 percent by 1979, then increased to 59 percent by 1989. Despite the increase during the 1980s, the highest rate reached is still well below college participation rates for males between 1970 and 1973 when military draft exemption for males enrolled in college was still in effect.

When male participation is disaggregated into family income quartiles, the strong pattern illustrated throughout this paper appears again. Across all four quartiles, male college participation rates are clearly and strongly related to family income. These rates dropped during the 1970s, then increased after different years in the 1980s. In the top family income quartile, where the decline in rates was greatest during the 1970s, the increase after 1979 was also greatest.

The decline in male college participation rates after 1970 was shortest for the top quartiles, and longest for the bottom quartiles. In the top two quartiles, the rate reached bottom in 1979. In the second quartile it reached bottom in 1983. In the bottom quartile the decline continued until 1986. All four quartiles have experienced increases in college participation rates recently, but because the turnaround has been under way longer at higher family income levels, a greater share of the 1970s' loss has been recovered at higher income levels than at the lowest.

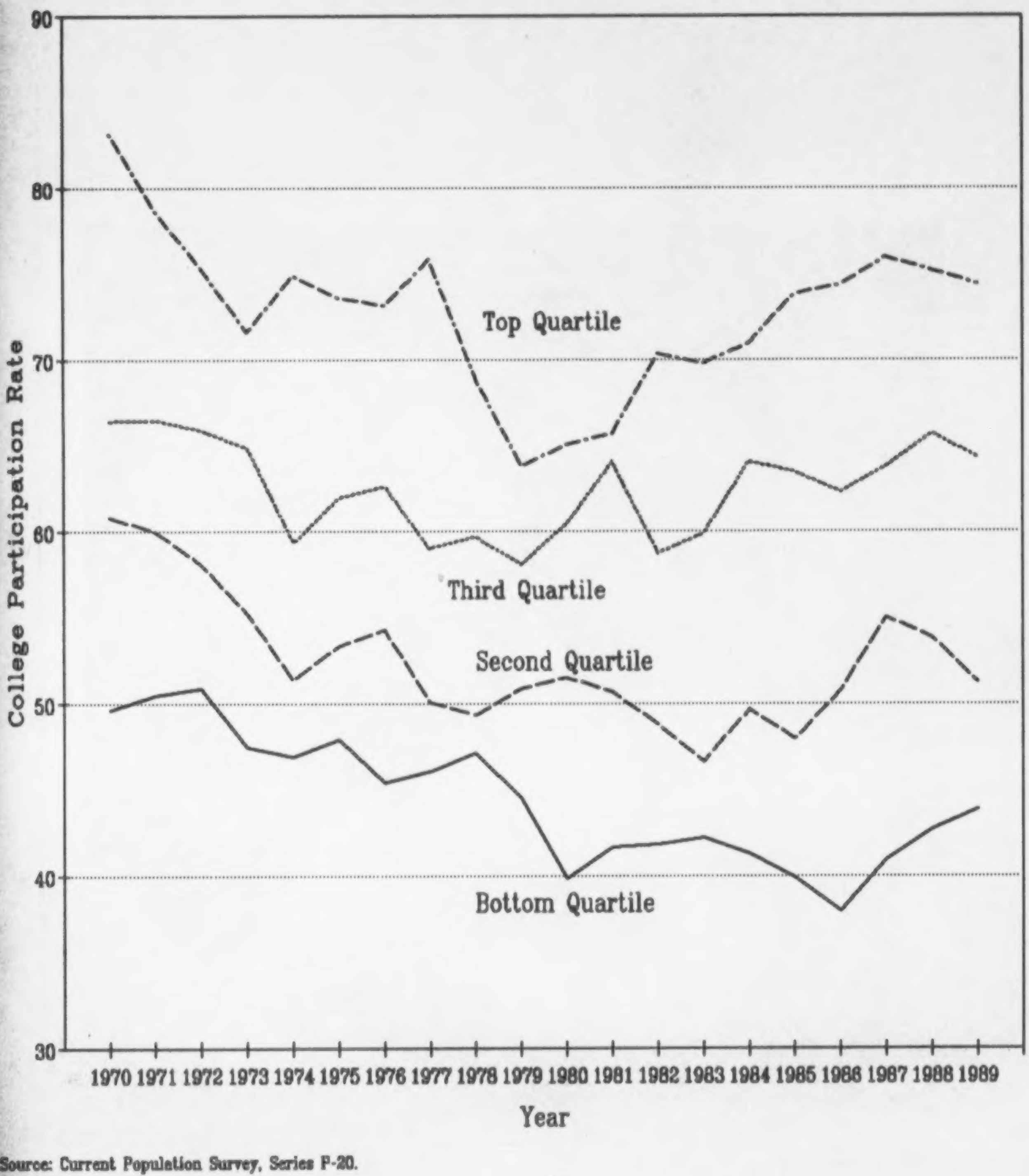
The difference in the college participation rates of males from the top and bottom quartiles of the family income distribution is plotted in Figure 28, which repeats the pattern of Figure 26. The college participation rate gap closed between 1970 and 1979, and then widened sharply between 1979 and 1986. In fact, in 1986 and 1987 this gap was wider than at any other point between 1970 and 1989.

Females. College participation rates for unmarried female high school graduates age 18 to 24 have increased substantially between 1970 and 1989. In 1970, 57 percent were participating or had participated in college. By 1989 this had increased to 65 percent. This means that 435,000 more young women had college experience by 1989 than would have been the case at 1970 rates.

This pattern differs from the experience of males during the 1970s, when male rates were declining while female rates were generally increasing slightly. Even during the 1980s, however, while male college participation rates have increased by 5 percent, the rate for females has increased by 7 percent. Not since 1975 has the male college participation rate exceeded that for females. The current difference of 5 percent more females than males is greater than at any point in the time period under study.

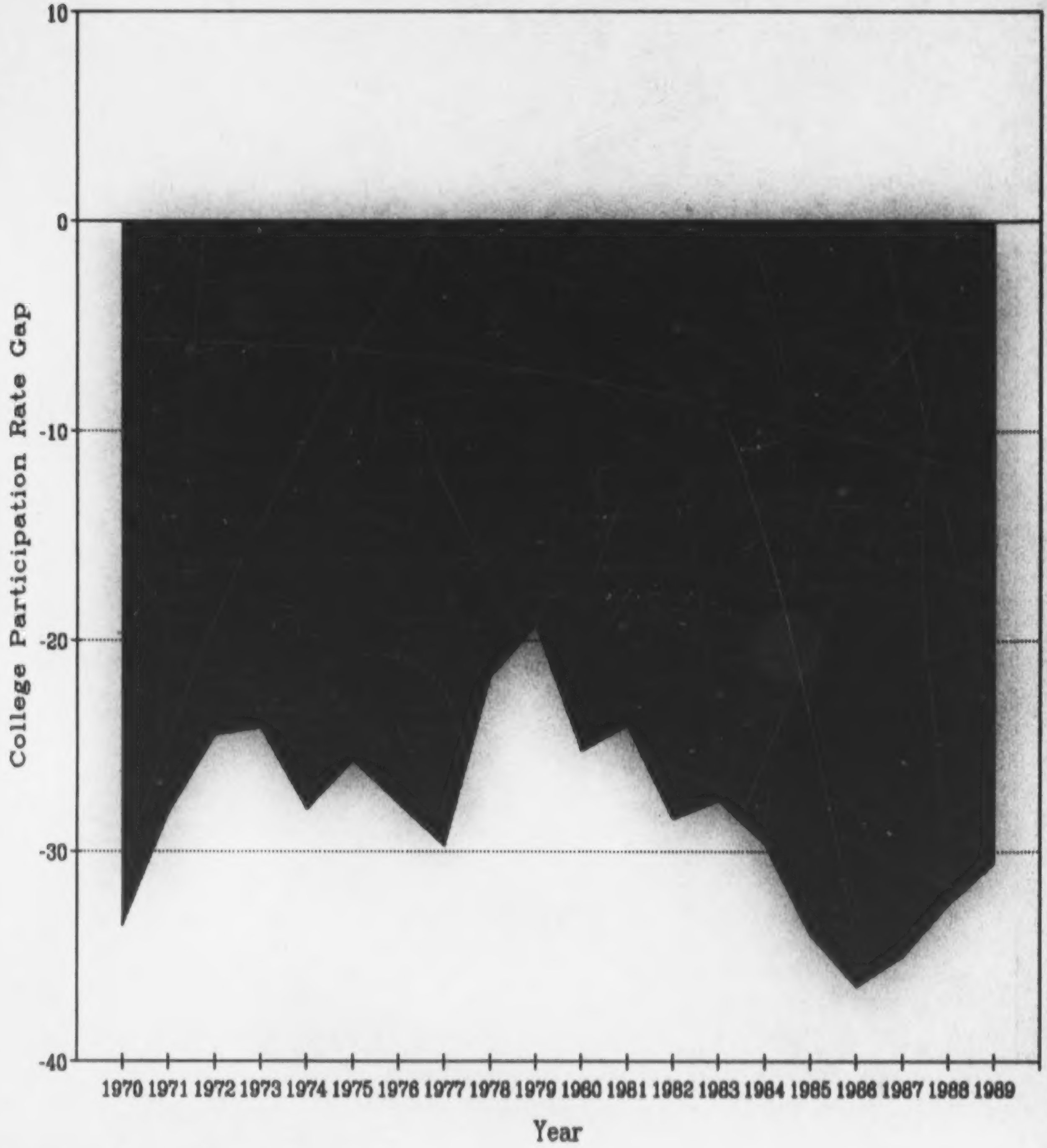
College participation rates for females are disaggregated by family income quartiles in Figure 29. The usual pattern persists here too. College participation rates are positively correlated with family income, and always have been. In each quartile, there is a positive slope to the trend. In each quartile (except the bottom quartile) the lowest college participation rates for females occur in the early 1970s, and the highest rates occur in 1988 or 1989.

FIGURE 27
COLLEGE PARTICIPATION RATES BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED MALES 18 TO 24 YEARS
1970 TO 1989



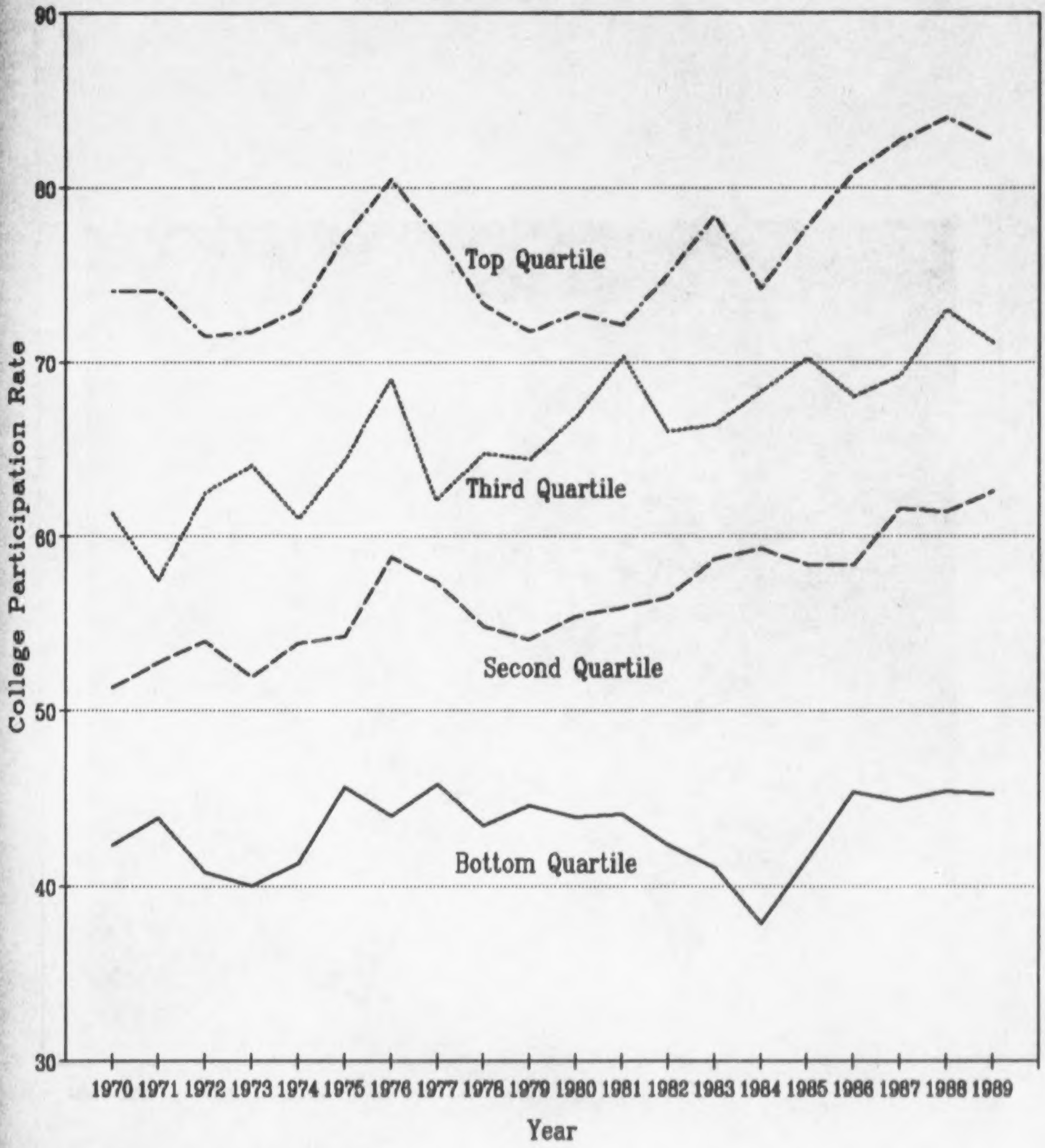
Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

FIGURE 28
COLLEGE PARTICIPATION RATE GAP FOR BOTTOM QUARTILE OF FAMILY INCOME FOR UNMARRIED MALE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES
1970 TO 1989



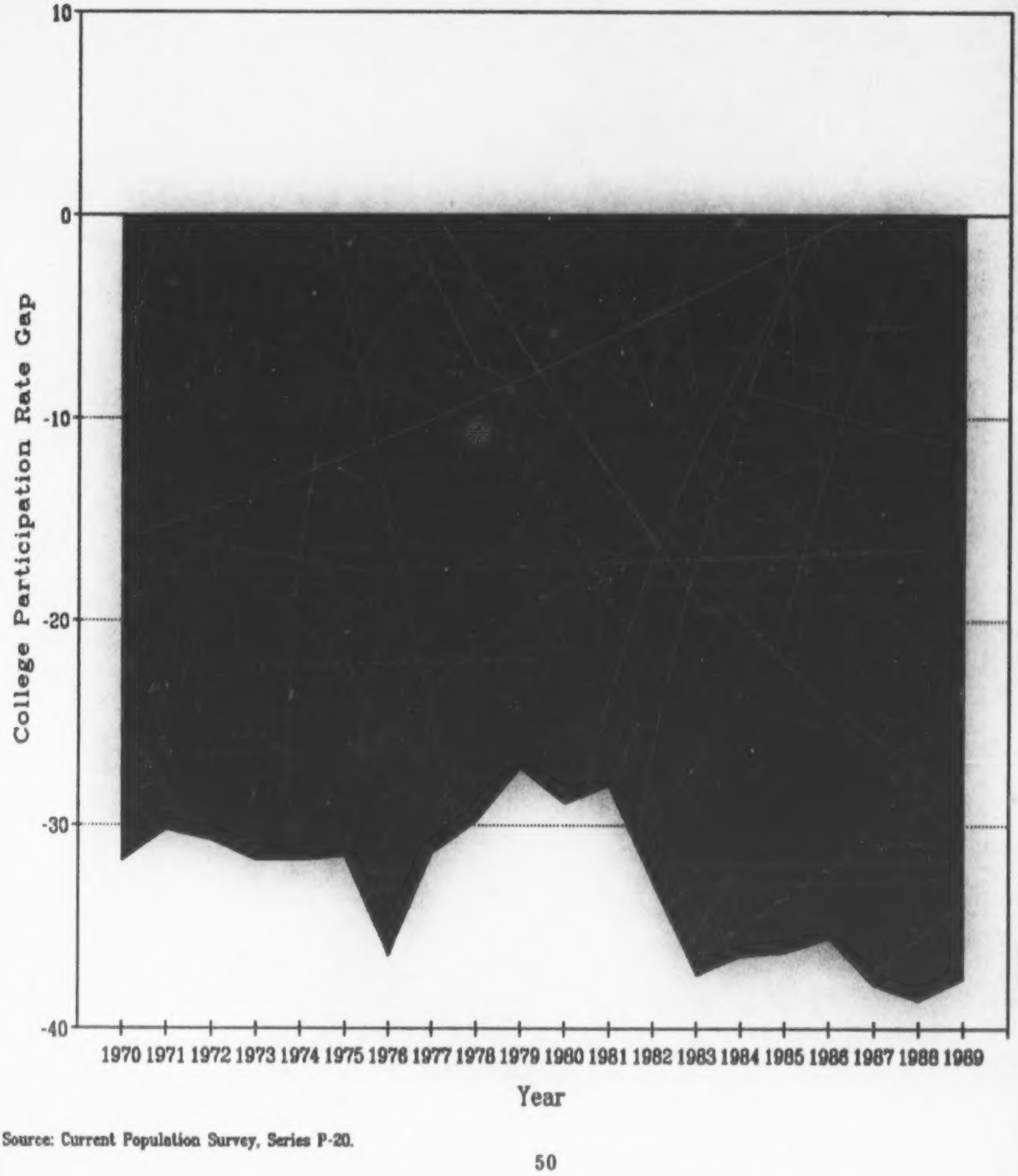
Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

FIGURE 29
COLLEGE PARTICIPATION RATES BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED FEMALES 18 TO 24 YEARS
1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

FIGURE 30
COLLEGE PARTICIPATION RATE GAP FOR BOTTOM QUARTILE OF FAMILY INCOME FOR UNMARRIED FEMALE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES
1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

The difference in the college participation rates for females from the top and bottom quartiles of the family income distribution in plotted in Figure 30. This gap is generally greater than the gap for males for each year of the study. But the same pattern persists: a slight closing of the gap between 1970 and 1979, and a widening thereafter. In 1988 the gap was wider than it had been at any time during this 20 year period.

College Participation Rates by Race/Ethnicity

We have also calculated the college participation rates for whites, blacks, and Hispanics in the same format as males and females. The results are charted, and with some interesting exceptions the trends and patterns are similar for each population group.

Whites. Whites constituted about 81 percent of the population of unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates in 1989, and thus college participation rates look very similar to the participation rates shown in Figure 32 for the total population. This percentage is down from 83 percent in 1980, and 88 percent in 1970, as the population of nonwhites has become a larger share of the high school graduate population over the last two decades.

Overall, the college participation rate for whites declined between 1970 and 1979, from 63 percent of the high school graduates to 57 percent. Then the rate increased to nearly 64 percent in 1988. The increase in the college participation rate for whites between 1979 and 1989 means that 601,000 more whites were or had been enrolled in college in 1989 compared to 1979 rates.

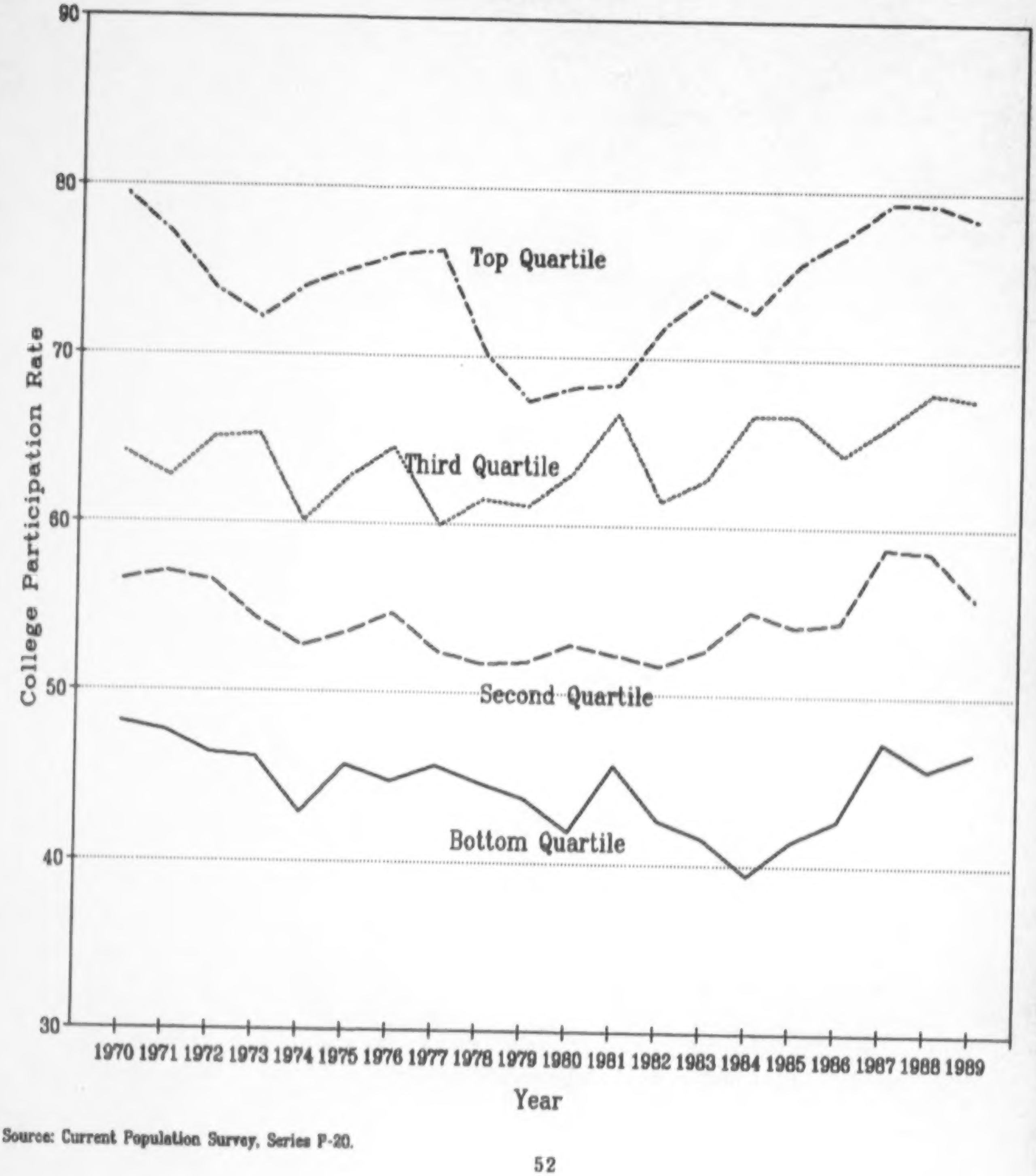
College participation rates for unmarried white high school graduates age 18 to 24 by quartiles of family income are shown in Figure 31. The general pattern of college participation rates increasing with family income holds here too. In 1989 the college participation rate for high school graduates in the bottom quartile of the family income distribution was 47 percent, compared to 56 percent in the second quartile, 68 percent in the third quartile, and 78 percent in the top quartile.

In each of the four quartiles college participation rates declined during the 1970s and have increased during the 1980s, although in a highly uneven fashion. During the 1970s the decline was greatest, and during the 1980s the increase was greatest in the top quartile. However, growth in the 1980s only brought the college participation rate for the top quartile back to the 1970 level by 1987. In the third and second quartiles, the rates are at record highs in 1987 through 1989. In the bottom quartile, the 1989 college participation rate was below the rate for the early 1970s.

The college participation rate gap between the top and bottom quartiles is shown in Figure 32. The general pattern prevails: a closing of the gap between 1970 and 1981, and a widening through 1986. The gap has been greater since 1983 than at any prior time.

Blacks: The college participation rates for unmarried black high school graduates age 18 to 24 have fluctuated over a wide range between 1970 and 1989, and differ from the trends for whites in important respects. The rates currently are well below rates reached in the mid 1970s. Because of the importance of black enrollment problems in higher education, we will devote special attention to the analysis of black enrollment patterns and trends in this section.

FIGURE 31
COLLEGE PARTICIPATION RATES BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED WHITES 18 TO 24 YEARS
1970 TO 1989

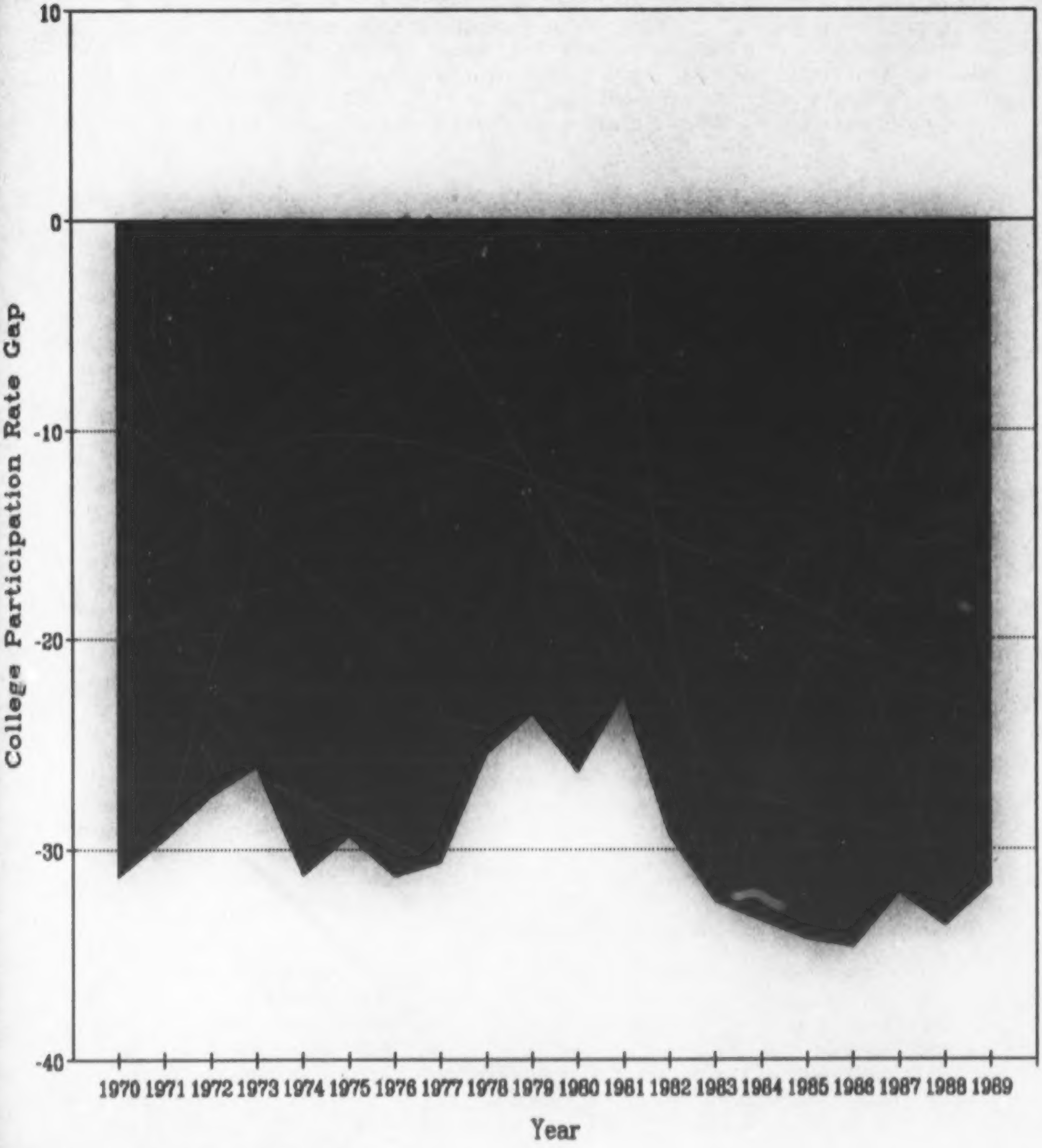


Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

FIGURE 32

COLLEGE PARTICIPATION RATE GAP FOR BOTTOM QUARTILE OF FAMILY INCOME FOR UNMARRIED WHITE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

In 1970, 45 percent of the unmarried black high school graduate population age 18 to 24 had participated or were participating in college. This rate increased to a peak of 55 percent in 1976, then dropped steadily to a low of 44 percent by 1985, and has since increased to 49 percent. This pattern is consistent with other data that show black college enrollment rates peaking in 1976, and holding at a relatively high level through the remainder of the 1970s, before dropping sharply during the first half of the 1980s. The drop between 1976 and 1985 means that about 223,000 fewer black high school graduates age 18 to 24 were going to or had gone to college in 1985 than would have if 1976 participation rates had persisted. Instead of the 834,000 actually enrolled in 1985, there would have been 1,057,000 enrolled, or about 27 percent more than there were in 1985.

Between 1985 and 1989, the college participation rate for unmarried 18 to 24 year old black high school graduates has increased, but only about half of the loss between 1976 and 1985 had been recovered by 1989.

More important to our study here are the college participation rates of blacks from the four quartiles of family income over the period from 1970 to 1989. As shown in Figure 33, college participation rates for blacks vary directly with family income, just as they do for males, females, and whites. In 1989, the college participation rate for unmarried black high school graduates from the bottom quartile of family income was 39 percent, compared to 57 percent from the second quartile, 65 percent from the third quartile, and 76 percent from the top quartile.

Between 1970 and 1989, black college participation rates from each of the four quartiles have generally moved in unison. When the rates went up or down for one quartile, other quartiles did the same. However, magnitudes of change varied considerably between family income quartiles. This is most notable in the years between 1974 and 1977 when college participation rates for blacks increased sharply, but only in the top three quartiles of family income. College participation rates in the bottom quartile held largely flat during this period.

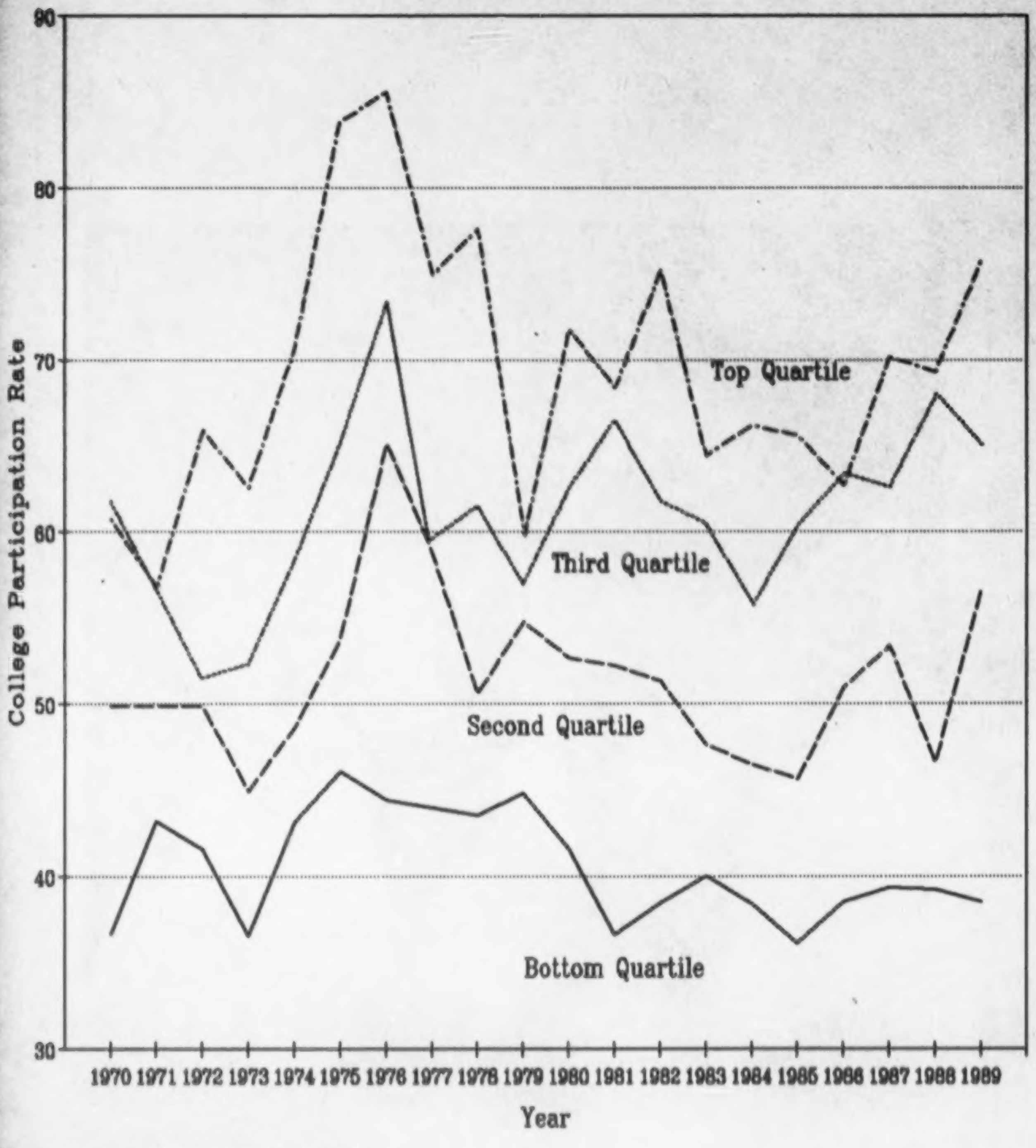
After peaks reached in 1976, the college participation rates declined through about 1985 for each of the four quartiles of family income. College participation rates for all four quartiles have increased between 1985 and 1989.

The college participation rate gap between blacks from the top and bottom quartiles of the family income distribution is plotted in Figure 34. This chart, unlike previous charts, shows the gap to be greatest in the mid 1970s when college participation rates for blacks from the top three family income quartiles increased sharply and the bottom quartile held constant. Except for this mid 1970s phenomenon, the college participation rate gap for bottom quartile blacks has been generally greater during the 1980s than it was for the remainder of the 1970s.

Hispanics. The Hispanic data were first reported by the Census Bureau for 1972, so the available time series is somewhat shorter than for other groups under study here. Also, this population is relatively small. The procedures employed to obtain sample data therefore contain more statistical "noise" than is true for larger populations such as males, females, whites, and blacks. Furthermore, the Hispanic community consists of clearly distinct subgroups, such as Mexican- and Cuban-Americans, that are disproportionately represented at different levels of family income in the following data. Despite these limitations, we can still gain useful insight into Hispanic participation in higher education from analysis of the Current Population Survey data.

FIGURE 33

COLLEGE PARTICIPATION RATES BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED BLACKS 18 TO 24 YEARS 1970 TO 1989

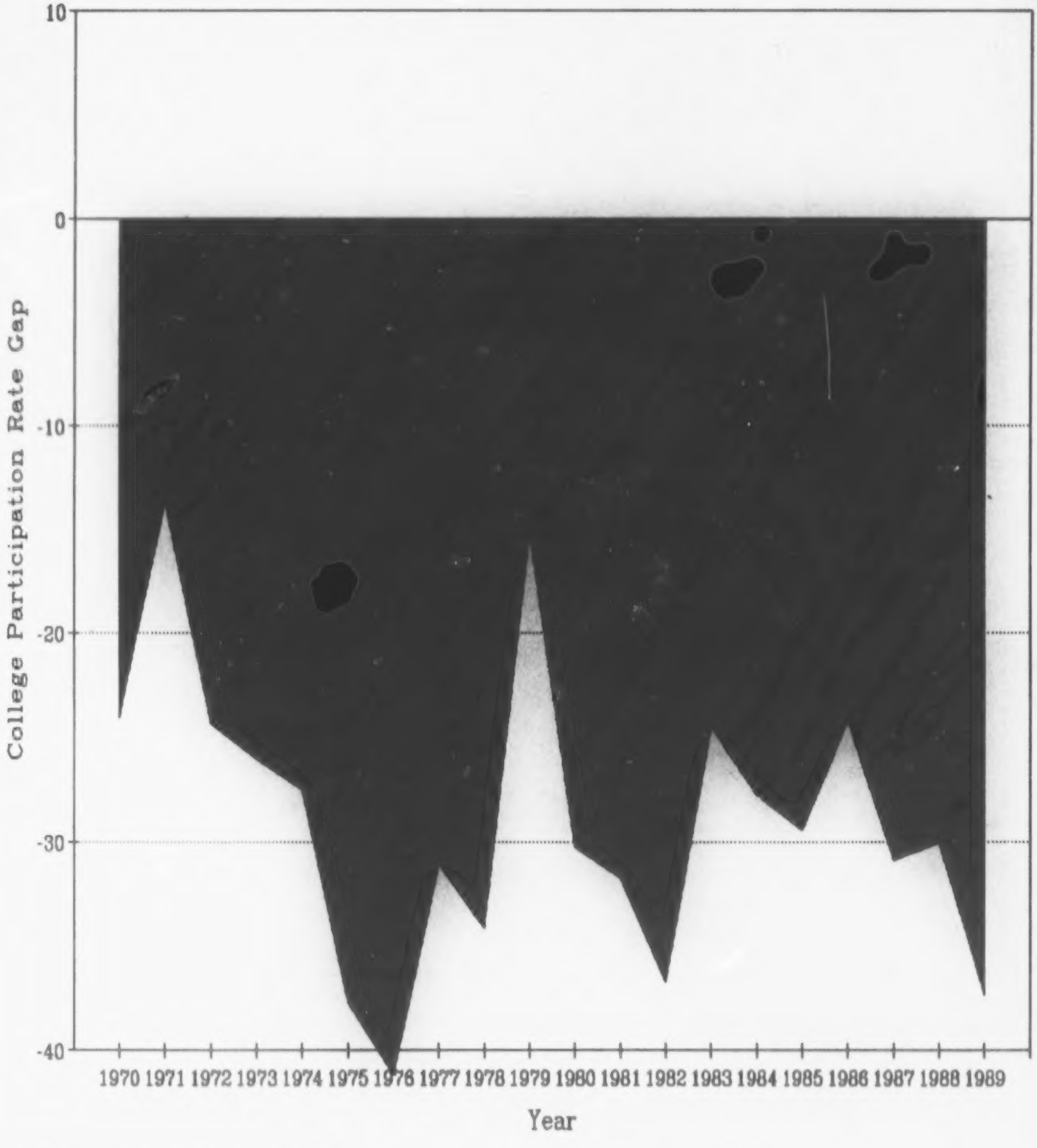


Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

FIGURE 34

COLLEGE PARTICIPATION RATE GAP FOR BOTTOM QUARTILE OF FAMILY INCOME FOR UNMARRIED BLACK HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

College participation rates for unmarried Hispanic high school graduates age 18 to 24 peaked at about 60 percent in 1975, about the same time black college participation rates peaked. After 1977 these rates dropped off to an average of about 51 percent in subsequent years through 1989, with little trend evident in the latter data.

The Hispanic population of high school graduates, unlike the population of whites and blacks, continued to grow while the population for others had begun to decline. For whites, the number of unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates peaked in 1982 at 10.8 million. For blacks it peaked in 1984 at 2.1 million. However, for Hispanics the peak year was 1987 at .9 million.

We have calculated college participation rates by quartiles of family income for the Hispanic population of unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates. These are shown in Figure 35. Given certain anomalies due to the small number sampling problem, the usual pattern prevails and college participation rates vary directly with family income. The average college participation rate over the last five years for Hispanics from the bottom quartile of the family income distribution is 44 percent, compared to 52 percent from the second quartile, 60 percent from the third quartile, and 68 percent from the top quartile.

Within the family income quartiles, college participation rates have behaved similarly, with one important exception. In the top three quartiles, college participation rates generally peaked in the mid 1970s, decreased through 1979, and have increased since then through 1988. In the bottom family income quartile, however, college participation rates have not increased during the 1980s.

The result of the preceding finding is that the college participation rate gap between the top and bottom quartiles of family income has widened during the 1980s compared to the 1970s. As shown in Figure 36, the general trend between 1972 and 1988 is for a widening gap in Hispanic college participation over time.

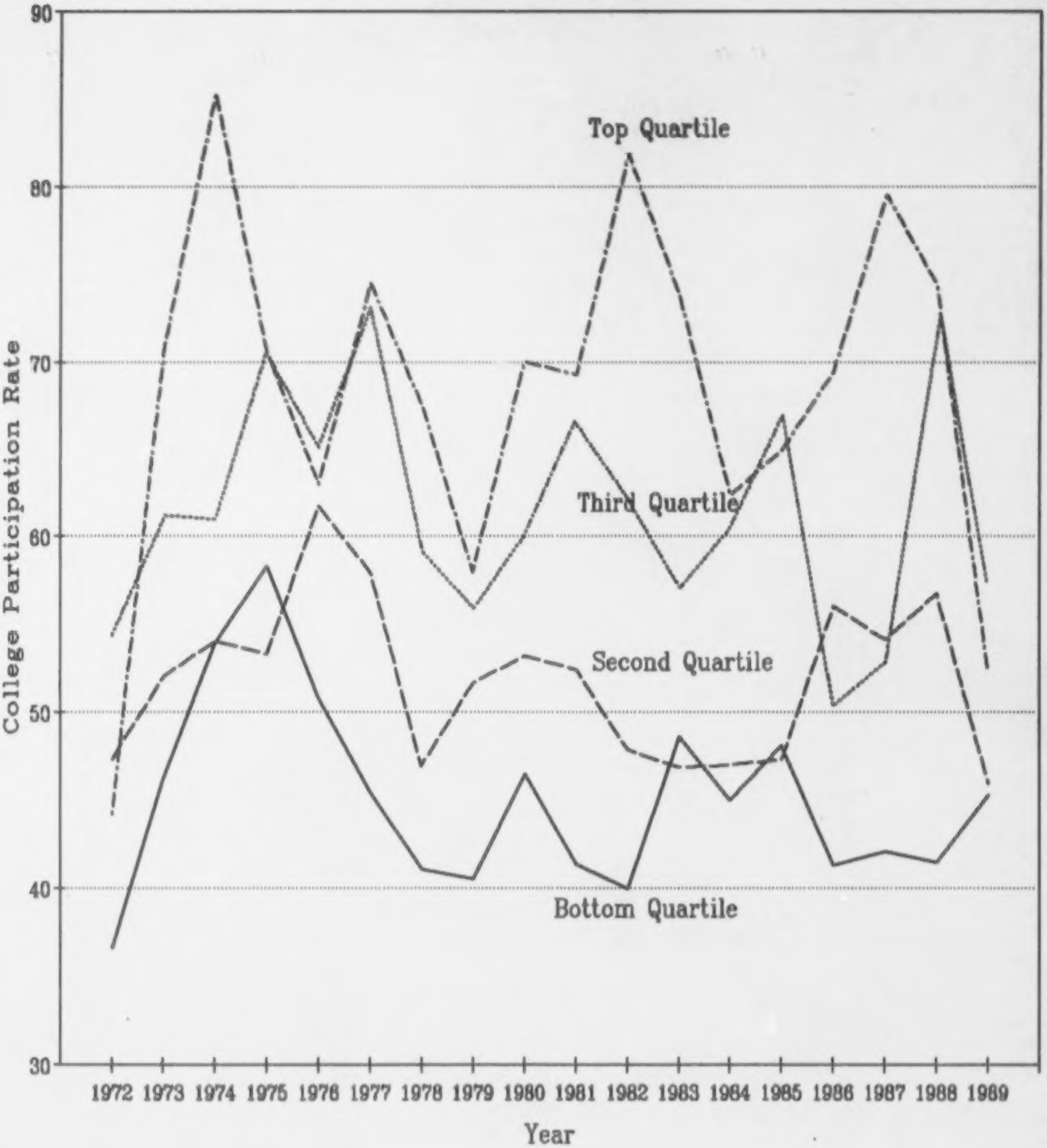
College Participation Behaviors

College participation among 18 to 24 year olds as tabulated by the Census Bureau consists of three mutually exclusive conditions: currently enrolled in college, not currently enrolled but having completed 1 to 3 years of college, and not currently enrolled but having completed four years or more of college. In this section we will examine each situation separately by level of family income.

College enrollment rates. Overall, the rates at which unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates were enrolled in college declined between 1970 and 1978, stabilized through 1985, and have increased since then.

Figure 37 shows these data by family income quartiles. The usual pattern prevails: college enrollment rates were lowest for lowest family income students and highest for highest family income students for every one of the last twenty years. The overall decline in the college enrollment rate ended sooner in the higher family income levels then in the lower levels. In the top family income quartile, the decline in college enrollment rates bottomed out in 1980 and increased thereafter. But in the bottom quartile, the decline continued until 1984 before beginning to recover. This decline, as suggested in Figure 25, was driven exclusively by declining male participation in college during this period.

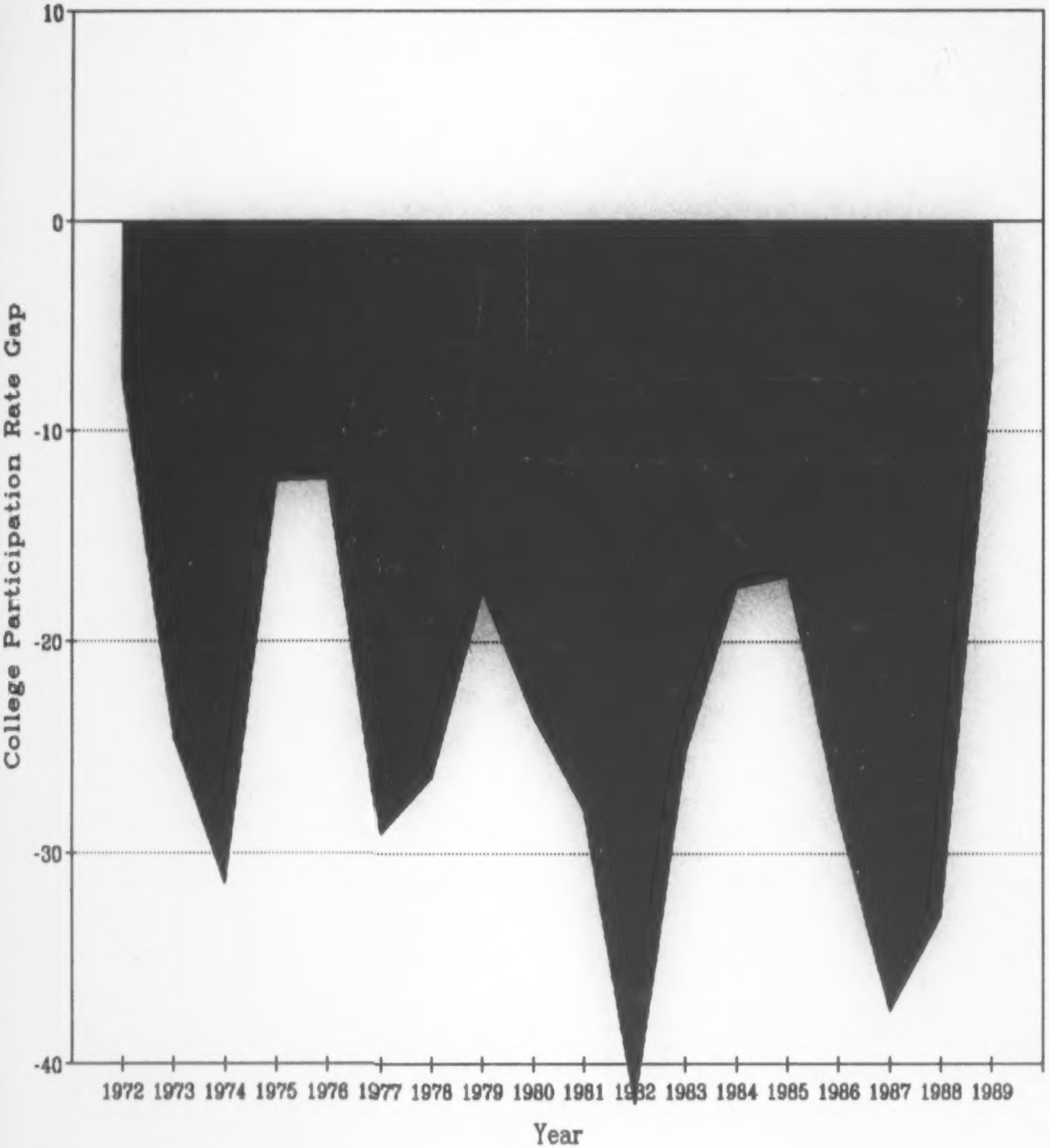
FIGURE 35
COLLEGE PARTICIPATION RATES BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED HISPANICS 18 TO 24 YEARS
1972 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

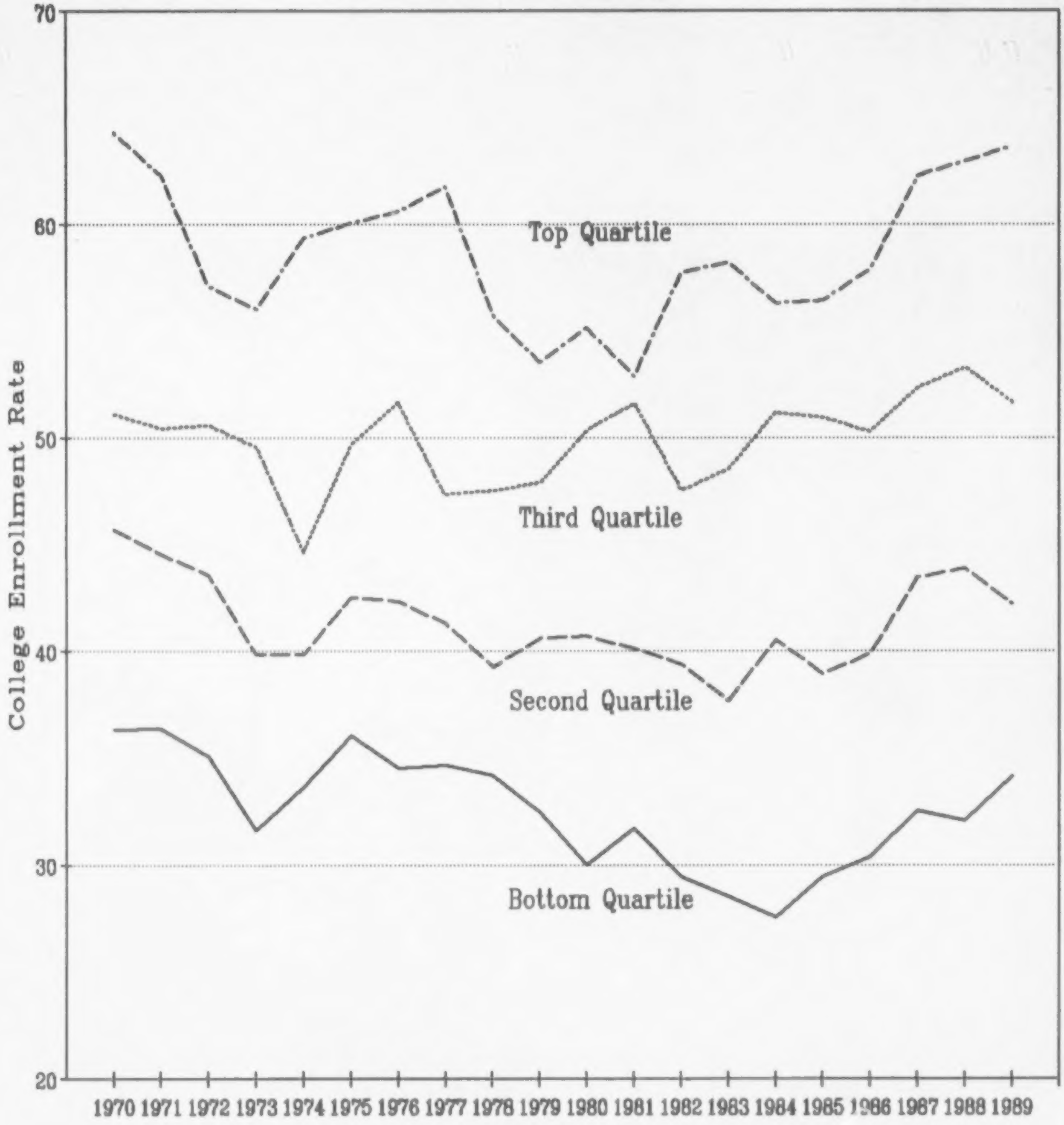
FIGURE 36

COLLEGE PARTICIPATION RATE GAP FOR BOTTOM QUARTILE OF FAMILY INCOME FOR UNMARRIED HISPANIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES 1972 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

FIGURE 37
COLLEGE ENROLLMENT RATES BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AGE 18 TO 24
1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

The effect of differences in the timing of enrollment rate recovery between the top and bottom quartiles of family income is shown in Figure 38. Because of the lag in enrollment rate recovery in the bottom quartile, the college enrollment rate gap widened sharply during the 1980s compared to the experience of the previous decade. Between 1970 and 1981, the college entrance rate gap averaged 24 percent. However, between 1982 and 1989 this gap averaged 29 percent and the gap was wider for every year between 1982 and 1989 than it had been for every year between 1971 and 1981.

1 to 3 years college. About 15 percent of the 18 to 24 year old unmarried high school graduates who reported college participation indicated that they had completed 1 to 3 years of college and were no longer enrolled. This may indicate that they had dropped out of college before completing their studies, or that they had in fact fulfilled their academic plans for college in less than 4 years. About 9 to 10 percent of the unmarried high school graduates have reported this in the Current Population Survey over the last twenty years.

Of particular interest in this study is what these rates have been within each of the family income quartiles over the last two decades. We have found these data especially difficult to portray graphically and thus sought an alternative graphic expression to convey important findings. In the alternative, Figure 39, we have omitted the lines, shown the data points, and added a trend line fitted to the data for each family income quartile.

The results are quite striking. In the bottom two quartiles of family income, the trend lines show distinct increases in the rate at which unmarried high school graduates have reported 1 to 3 years of college completed and no further college enrollment. The trend line for the third quartile is somewhat flatter. But the trend line for the top quartile is reversed in slope: over the last two decades the proportion of top family income quartile high school graduates stopping their collegiate studies before completing the baccalaureate degree has decreased. Perhaps an increasing share of college students from the bottom half of the family income distribution are dropping out of college before completing the baccalaureate program, while a decreasing share of students from the top quartile have had to do so. Or, for reasons suggested by data reported later in this study regarding the growth in part-time enrollment, perhaps students from the bottom half of the family income distribution have stopped out of college temporarily to work and later return to college, while students from the top quartile have not needed to do so.

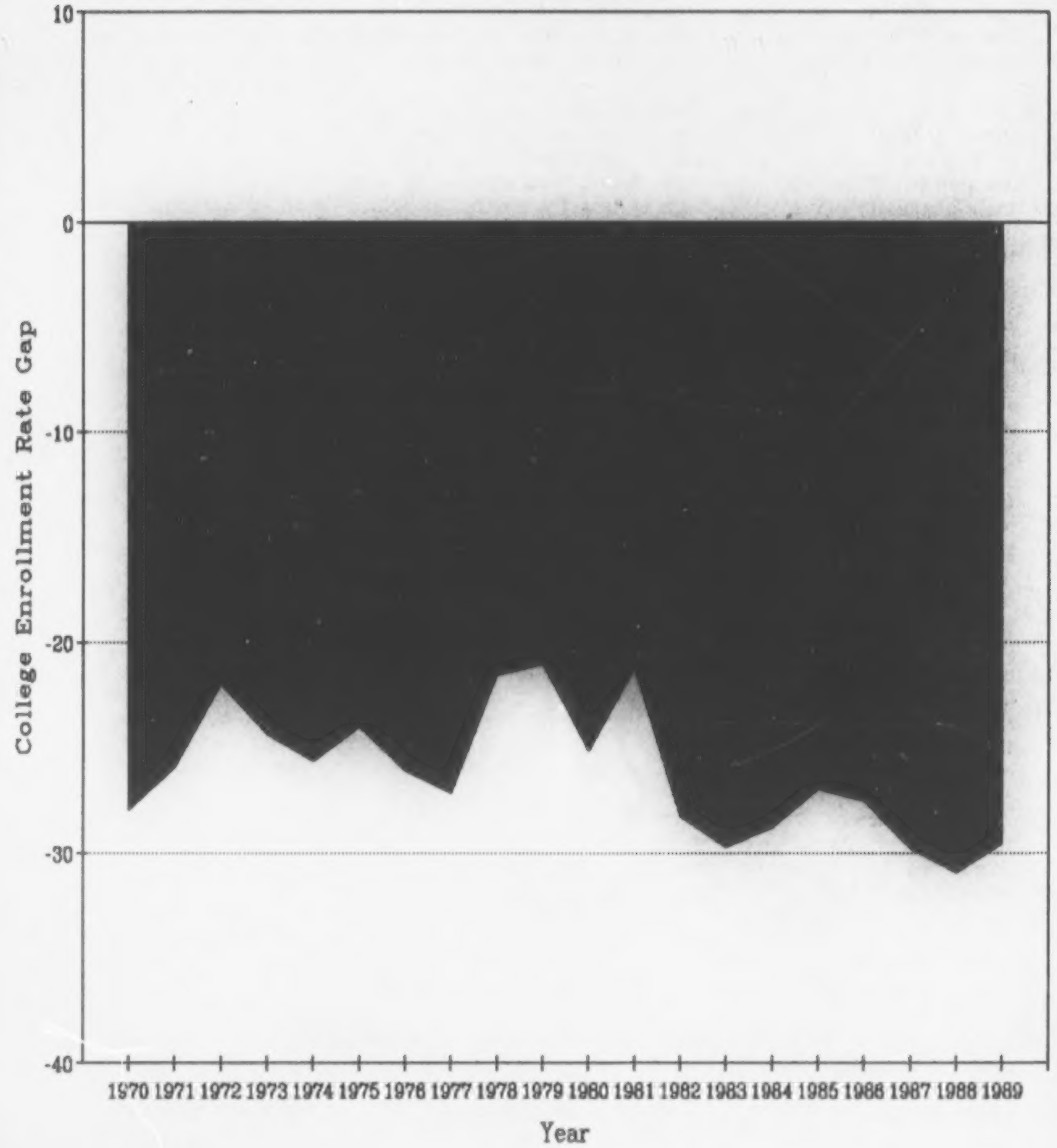
The Current Population Survey data do not permit us to delve much further into this situation. As shown in Figures 1 through 3, the labor market has rewarded those who completed four years or more of college compared to those with lesser levels of educational attainment. The unmarried high school graduates from the top family income quartile appear to have responded to this signal. But especially in the bottom two quartiles of family income, either a growing proportion of unmarried high school graduates have reduced their academic aspirations, or been unable to complete their baccalaureate studies, or both, during the last twenty years.

4 years or more of college. The proportion of unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates reporting that they had completed four years or more of college in the Current Population Survey increased during the last twenty years. In 1970, 3.4 percent reported this attainment, compared to 4.5 percent by 1989. While these percentages sound small, remember that the years 18 to 24 represent a time of transition of young adults from dependent family members to independence and marriage. For many, completing college probably marks the beginning of that independence.

FIGURE 38

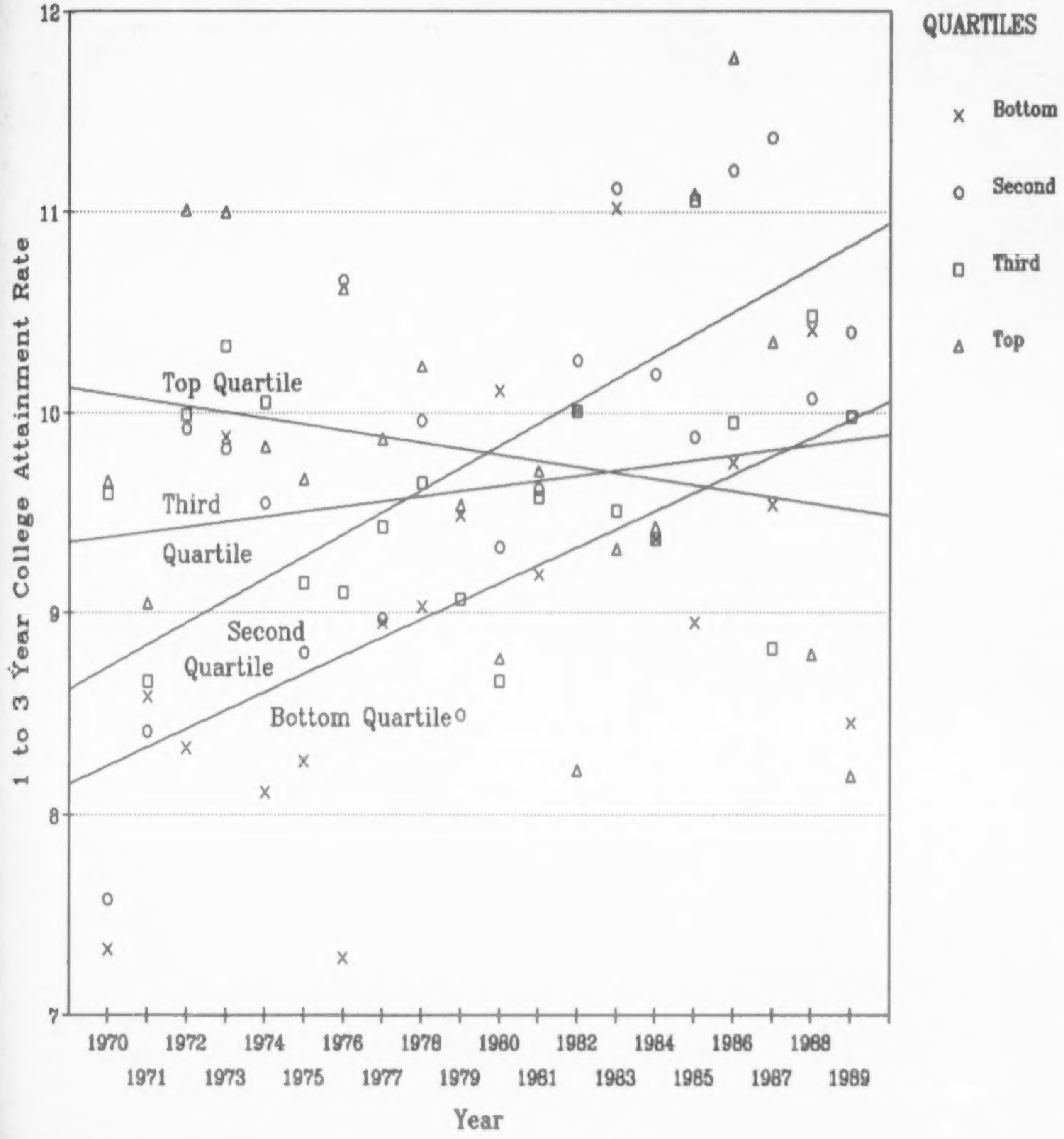
COLLEGE ENROLLMENT RATE GAP FOR BOTTOM QUARTILE OF FAMILY INCOME FOR UNMARRIED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

FIGURE 39
1 TO 3 YEARS COLLEGE ATTAINMENT RATES BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AGE 18 TO 24
1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

In Figure 40 we have plotted the proportion of unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates that report having completed four or more years of college by family income quartiles. The pattern is typical of what has been presented previously in this paper: the rates are lowest for those from lowest family income backgrounds, and highest for those from highest family income backgrounds. Over the last two decades, these rates have remained relatively flat for the bottom two quartiles of family income, nearly doubled for the third quartile, and increased significantly for the top quartile, especially during the 1980s.

The difference between the rates for the top and bottom family income quartiles is shown in Figure 41. During the 1970s, the gap in baccalaureate degree attainment narrowed somewhat. But beginning in 1981, this gap widened rapidly and had nearly tripled by 1985.

Enrollment by Institutional Control

For unmarried 18 to 24 year olds still enrolled in college, we can examine their college enrollment by institutional control from the Current Population Survey data. One of the most important characteristics distinguishing public and private higher educational institutions is their tuition charges to students. In 1986-87, for example, the average annual tuition charged by public four year institutions was $1414, compared to $6658 in private four year institutions (Snyder, 1989). Thus, our ability to analyze college enrollments by both institutional control and family income backgrounds offers insight into the ability of individuals from different family income backgrounds to bridge the price gap between public and private higher education.

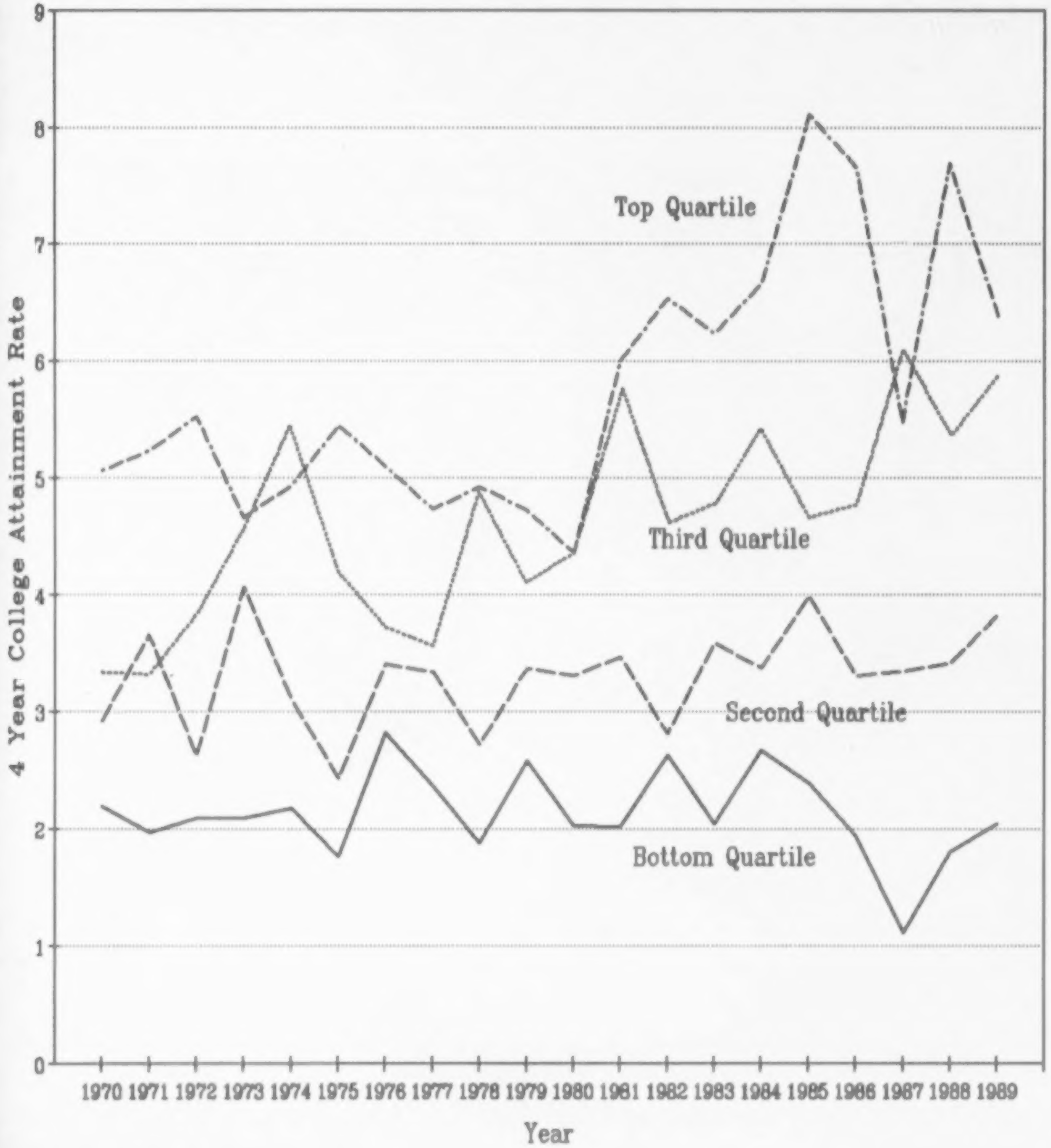
The Census Bureau, however, cautions about the quality of this data. In conversations with the authors, Census Bureau staff have expressed reservations about the reliability of data collected from individuals regarding institutional control. Apparently, some respondents are unsure whether their institution is public or private. Thus, the Census Bureau has chosen not to report these data for four of the last twenty years, including 1970, 1980, 1987, and 1988.

Although we cannot verify the accuracy of the Census Bureau's survey data, we have compared the public/private enrollment estimates for 18 to 24 year olds published by the Census Bureau (based on samples of individuals) with similarly defined enrollment data reported by the Department of Education (based on institutional reports). These aggregate results suggest a high degree of comparability. For example, the Department of Education reports that 77 percent of the college students age 18 to 24 in 1987 were enrolled in public institutions. The Census Bureau reported that 76 percent of the college students age 18 to 24 in 1986 were enrolled in public institutions, and 79 percent in 1989. Given the apparent comparability of these data, we proceeded with our analysis and report our results here.

Overall, public higher educational institutions enrolled 79 percent of the population of unmarried 18 to 24 year old college students in 1989. Since 1971 this proportion has ranged from a low of 74 percent in 1978 to the high recorded in 1989.

By family income quartiles, the public institutional share of higher educational enrollments for the last two decades is shown in Figure 42, and for private institutions in Figure 43. The most obvious pattern to these data is that over the last two decades public colleges have generally enrolled a larger share of the lowest family income college students than of the highest family income college students. For example, in 1989 public

FIGURE 40
4 YEAR COLLEGE ATTAINMENT RATES BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AGE 18 TO 24
1970 TO 1989

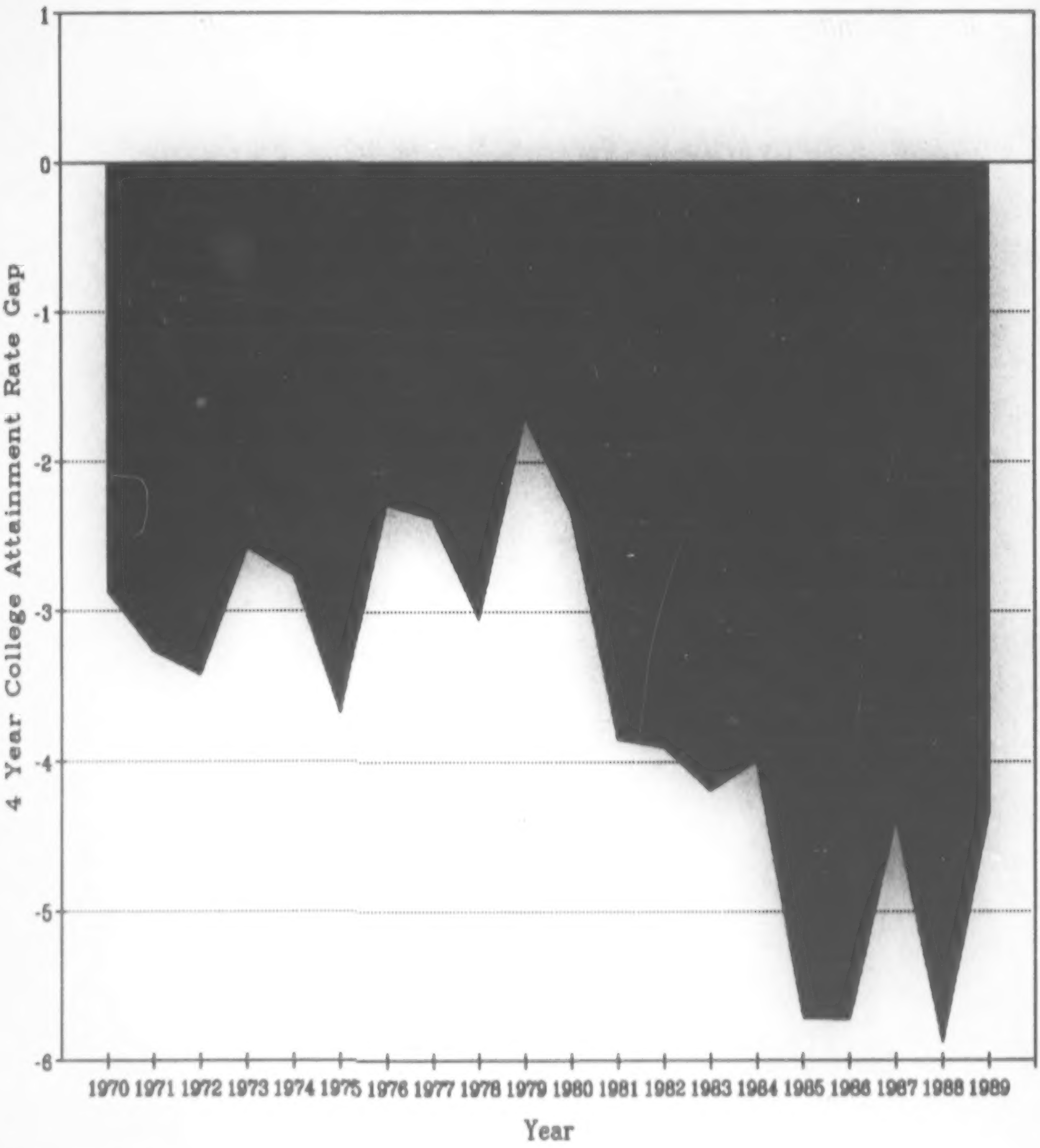


Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

FIGURE 41

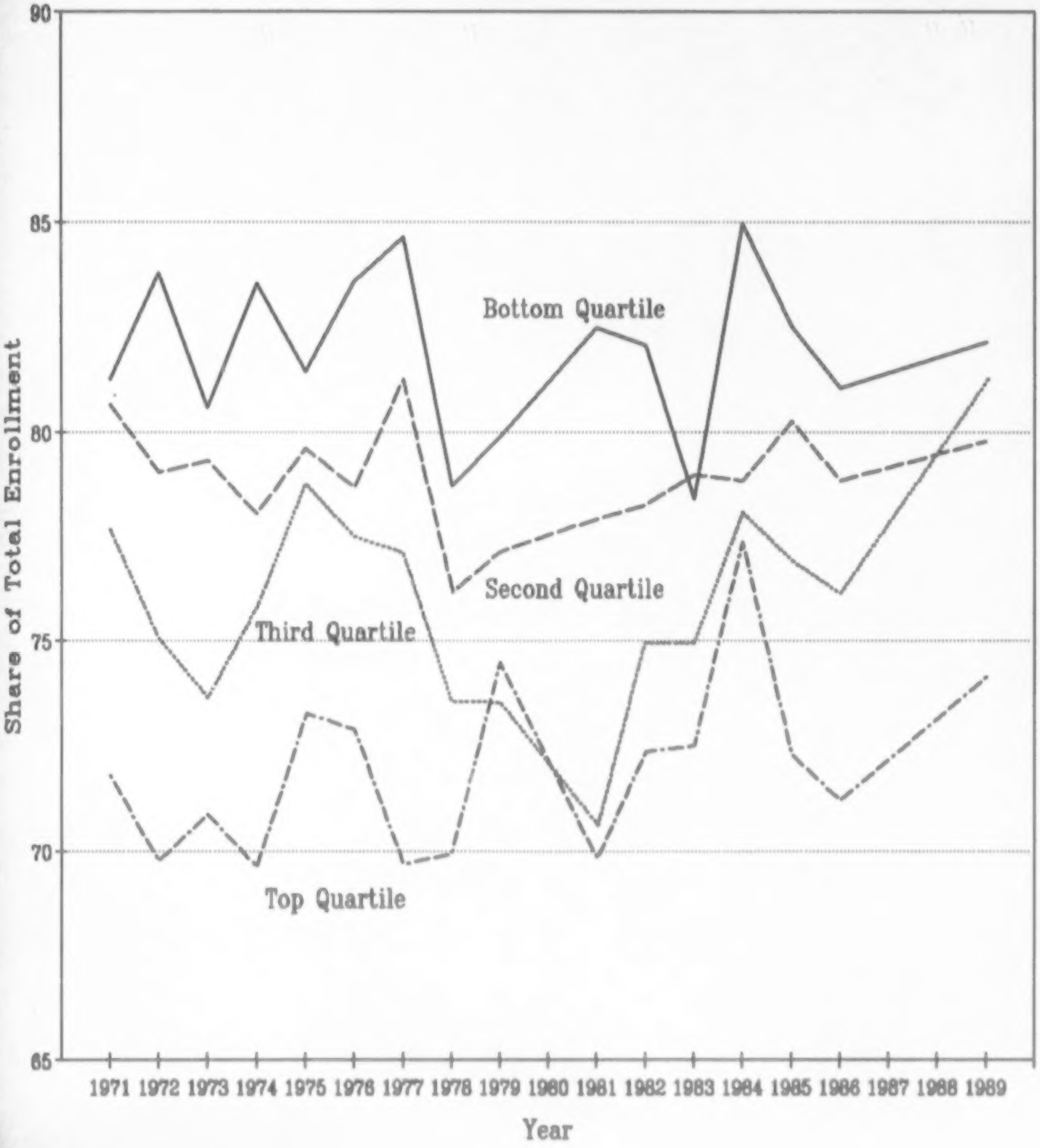
4 YEAR COLLEGE ATTAINMENT RATE GAP FOR BOTTOM QUARTILE OF FAMILY INCOME FOR UNMARRIED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

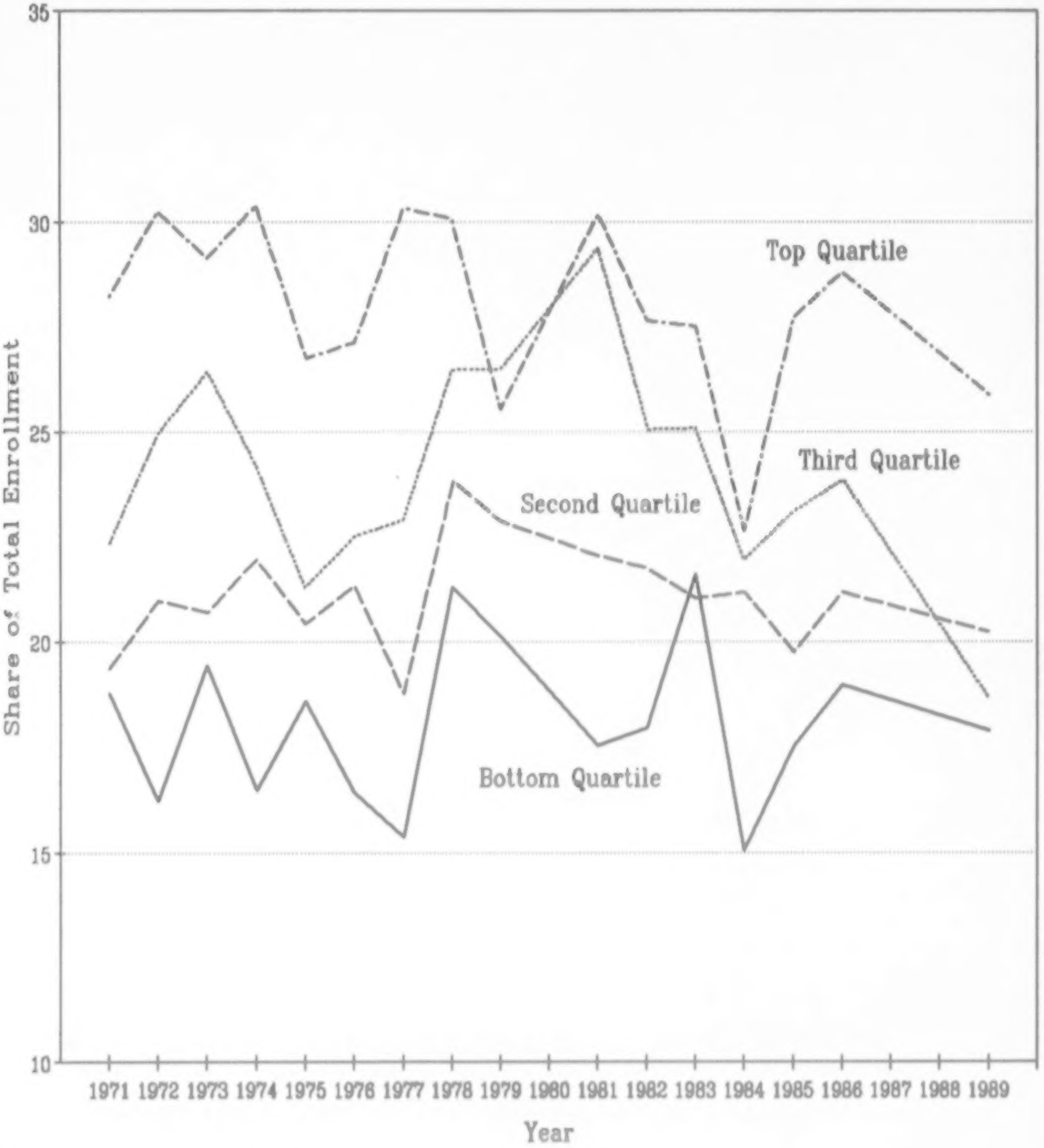
FIGURE 42
PUBLIC COLLEGE SHARE OF HIGHER EDUCATIONAL ENROLLMENTS BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES
1971 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

FIGURE 43

PRIVATE COLLEGE SHARE OF HIGHER EDUCATIONAL ENROLLMENTS BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES 1971 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

colleges enrolled 82 percent of the bottom quartile students, 80 percent from the second quartile, 81 percent from the third, and 74 percent from the top family income quartile. Similarly, private colleges were more likely to enroll students from the top family income quartile than they were from the bottom quartile.

But the picture is more interesting than this when trends are examined by family income quartiles. Public institutions over the last two decades have enrolled largely stable shares of unmarried 18 to 24 year olds from the bottom two quartiles of the family income distribution, but larger shares of students from the top two quartiles. Concomitantly, private institutions have lost enrollment shares from the top two family income quartiles. The shift appears to have been under way for most of the last two decades in the top family income quartile (where family incomes exceeded about $58,100 in 1989). But in the third quartile, where incomes ranged from $35,400 to $58,100 in 1989, the shift from private to public has occurred sharply since 1981. Prior to 1981, college enrollment in this income range was shifting from public to private, particularly between 1975 and 1981. This income interval may be especially responsive to pricing and financial aid policies of government and institutions.

Enrollment by Status

Students age 18 to 24 are more likely to attend college fulltime than are older students due to the absence of complicating features of an older person's life style, such as marriage, children, mortgages, car payments, etc. However, during the last two decades even 18 to 24 year olds have shifted somewhat from full-time enrollment toward part-time college study. The proportion of unmarried 18 to 24 year old college students that are carrying a full-time load of courses dropped from 92 percent in 1970 to 87 percent by 1980, and has remained near the 87 percent level through 1989 as shown in Figure 44.

Of course these proportions vary by family income level. College students from the top quartile of the family income distribution are most likely to be enrolled full-time, and students from the bottom quartile are least likely to be enrolled full-time. Furthermore, over the last two decades, students from the bottom family income quartile have made the greatest shift from full-time to part-time study. Between 1970 and 1989, the proportion of college students from the top quartile of family income enrolled full-time dropped by 5 percent, while the proportion from the bottom quartile dropped by 8 percent.

Throughout the 1980s, college students from the bottom quartile of the family income distribution have been the group most likely to be part-time students. But during the 1970s this was not always the case: college students from the second and third quartiles were often the groups most likely to be enrolled in college part-time, as shown in Figure 45.

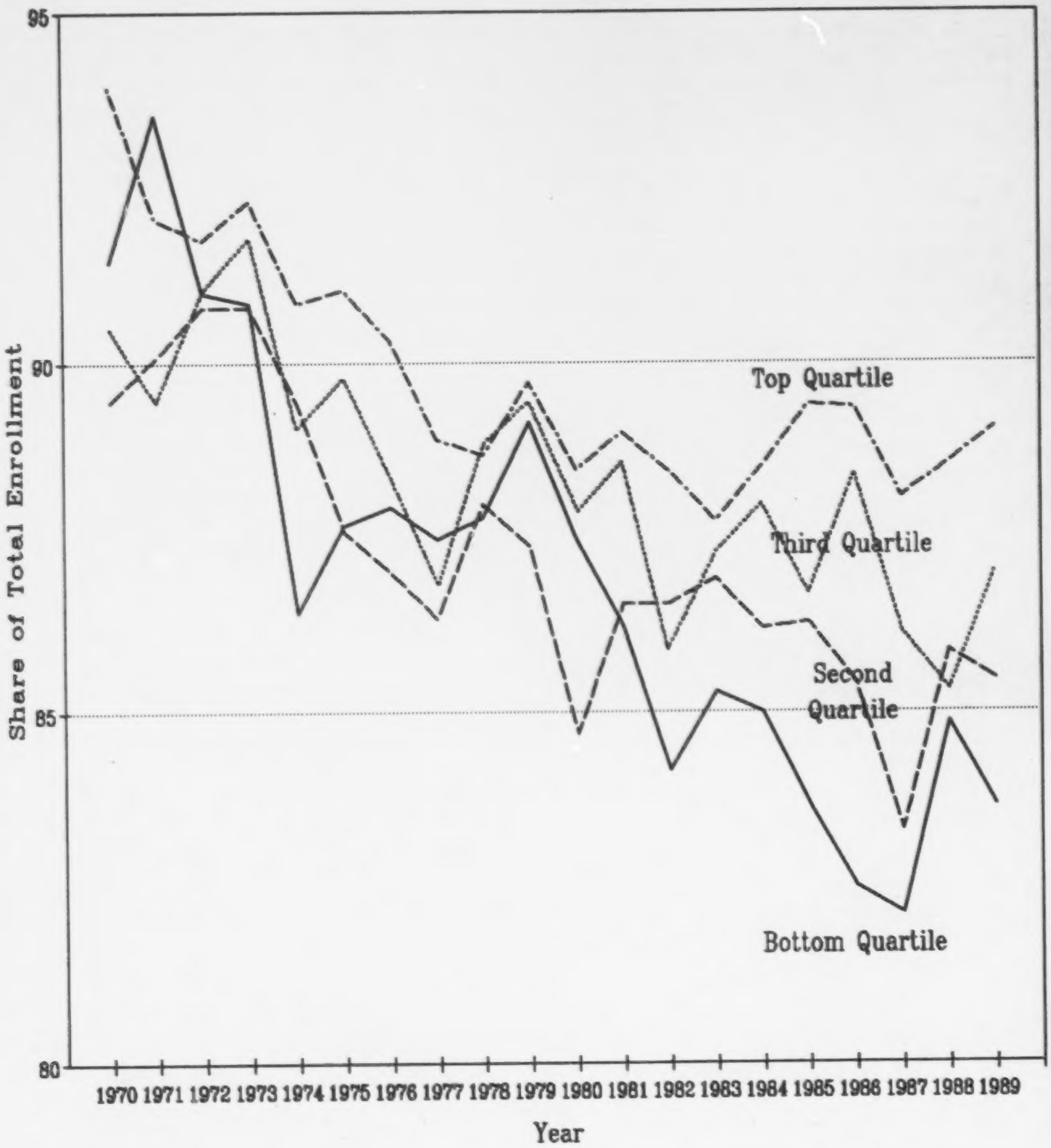
Summary of Findings

In this section we have described college participation behaviors of unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates for the years between 1970 and 1989. In particular, we have made comparative descriptions of these behaviors between the four quartiles of unmarried high school graduate family income.

FIGURE 44

FULL TIME ENROLLMENT SHARE OF TOTAL ENROLLMENTS BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

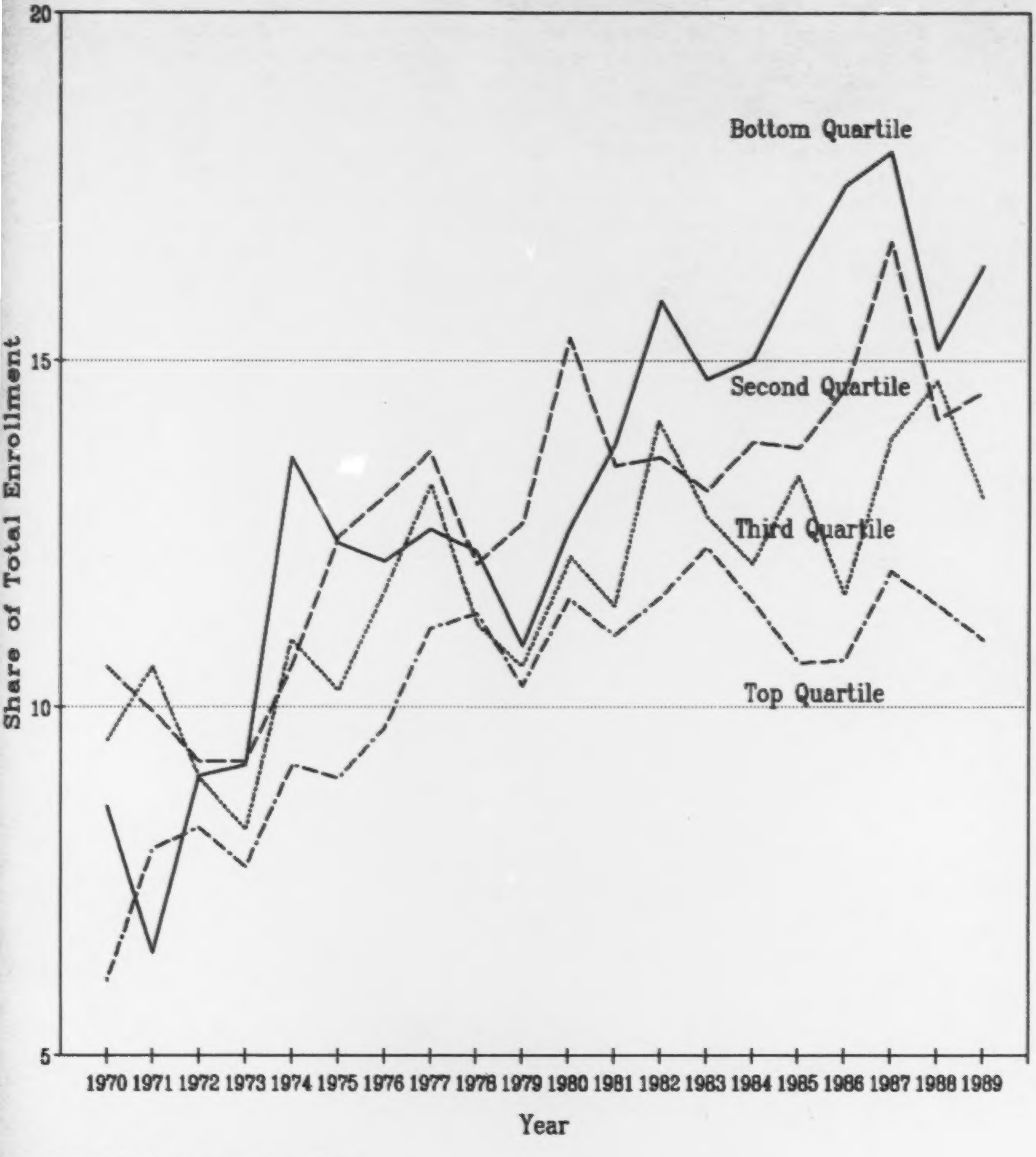
1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

FIGURE 45

PART TIME ENROLLMENT SHARE OF TOTAL ENROLLMENTS BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES 1970 TO 1989



ource: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

In every dimension of higher educational participation, for every demographic dimension of the population, the data tell the same story:

> The highest rates of higher educational participation are enjoyed by persons from the top quartile of family income, and the lowest rates of higher educational participation are experienced by those from the bottom quartile of family income. Students from intervening quartiles participate according to their family income quartile placement.
>
> Moreover, the differences in higher educational participation have been largely persistent over the last two decades. While notable improvements occurred during the 1970s for high school graduates from the bottom quartile of family income, the 1980s are characterized by deterioration in higher educational participation that exceeds the gains made during the 1970s in most cases. This finding holds for males, females, whites, and Hispanics. It holds for 18 to 24 year olds currently enrolled in college, those with 1 to 3 years of college experience, and those with 4 or more years of college. It holds for institutional choice between low tuition public and high tuition private institutions, and it holds for full time enrollment status.

IV. Baccalaureate Degree Attainment

The third step on the path of education toward the life styles and opportunities accorded to the college educated in America is earning a bachelor's degree. Our data do not permit us to examine this question directly because dependent family members who earn a college degree often become independent of their parents upon graduation when they begin their careers. Therefore, we have used another data source--1980 High School and Beyond (HSB)--to determine bachelor's degree attainment by family income background for those who start college. We will use this data source, combined with our Current Population Survey data, to estimate baccalaureate degree attainment for the period of our study between 1970 and 1989.

High School and Beyond

The 1980 High School and Beyond data file contains extensive information on 1980 high school graduates. This cohort was followed up by the National Center for Education Statistics at periodic intervals to determine, among other things, their progress in higher education. We have examined a portion of these data with the assistance of NCES to determine the proportion of those who started college who had obtained a baccalaureate degree by the spring of 1986.

Baccalaureate degree attainment rates for the 1980 class ranged from 20.8 percent of those from family incomes of less than $7000 per year (in 1980), to 46.2 percent of those from families with annual incomes of $38,000 or more. These data are shown in Figure 46.

Adjustments to CPS Data

We have used the HSB degree attainment rate by age 24 data to estimate the rates at which unmarried 18 to 24 year old college students are likely to earn a baccalaureate degree by the time they are 24 years old over the twenty year time span of this study. The adjustment involves recalculating the 4 years of more of college data by family income quartiles reported in Appendix Table 26 and plotted in Figure 47 using the HSB data for the 1980 reference year. Within each family income quartile for 1980, the ratio of rates of baccalaureate degrees earned from HSB to the rate of four years of more of college calculated in Table 26 was computed. This ratio was then used to estimate chances of earning a baccalaureate degree by age 24 for 1970 to 1979 and 1981 to 1989 by multiplying the ratio for the income quartile by the 4 years or more college attainment rate.

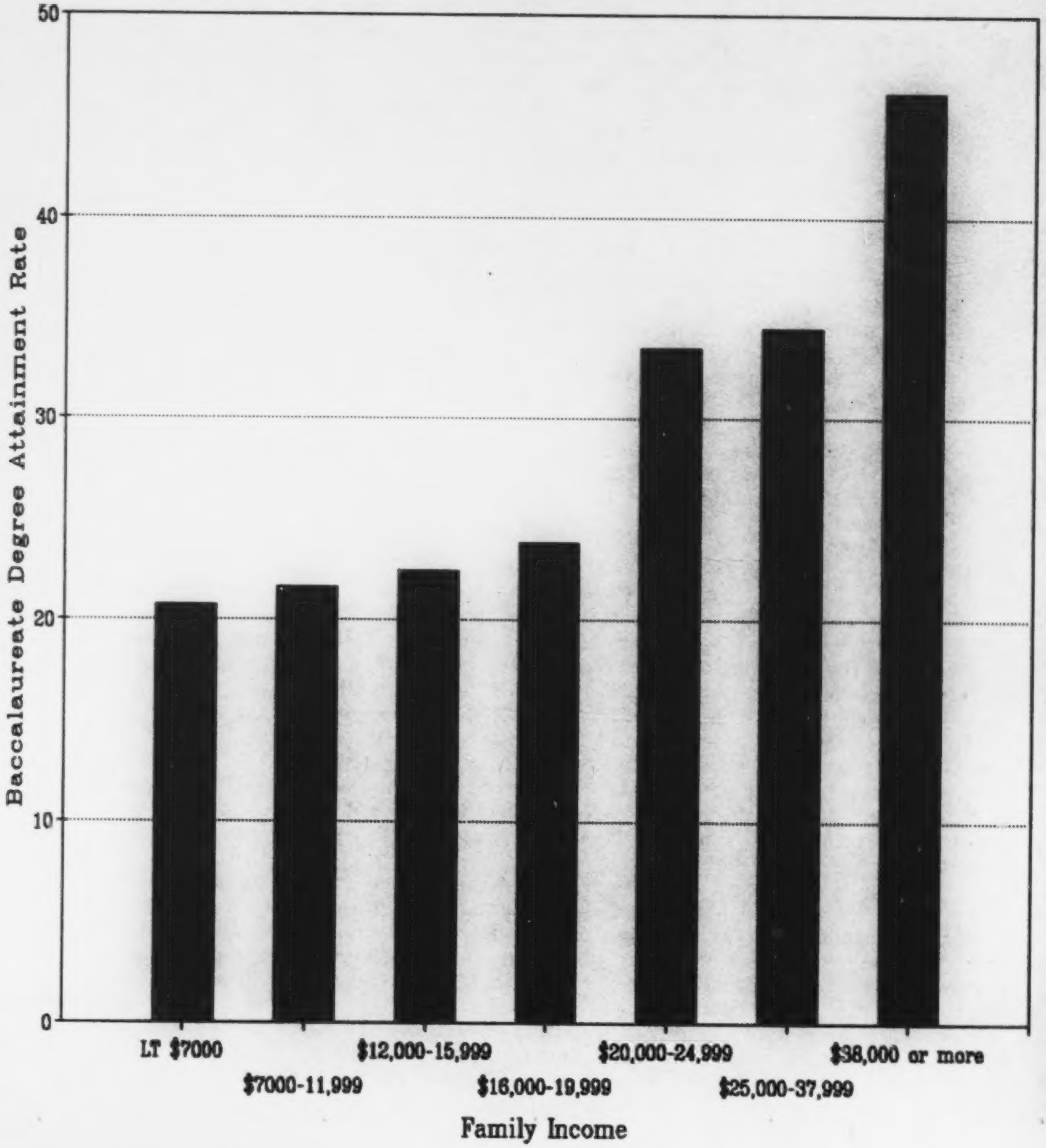
The results are shown in Figure 47. The 4 year degree attainment rates are strongly related to family income backgrounds from high school. We estimate that a person who goes to college and comes from the bottom quartile of family income had about a 22 percent chance to earn a bachelor's degree by age 24 in 1989. From the second quartile the chance was about 27 percent. From the third quartile the chance was 46 percent, and from the top quartile the chance was about 68 percent. Figure 47 also shows increases in the rates at which unmarried high school graduates could expect to earn a baccalaureate degree by age 24 in the top two quartiles of family income, a largely flat trend in the second quartile, and some decline, especially in the latter 1980s, for those from the bottom quartile.

Although our data describe estimates of 4 year degree attainment by age 24, and these estimates involve fairly risky extrapolations, they are in fact based on behavioral data. They are also consistent with expectations of educational progress based on more

FIGURE 46

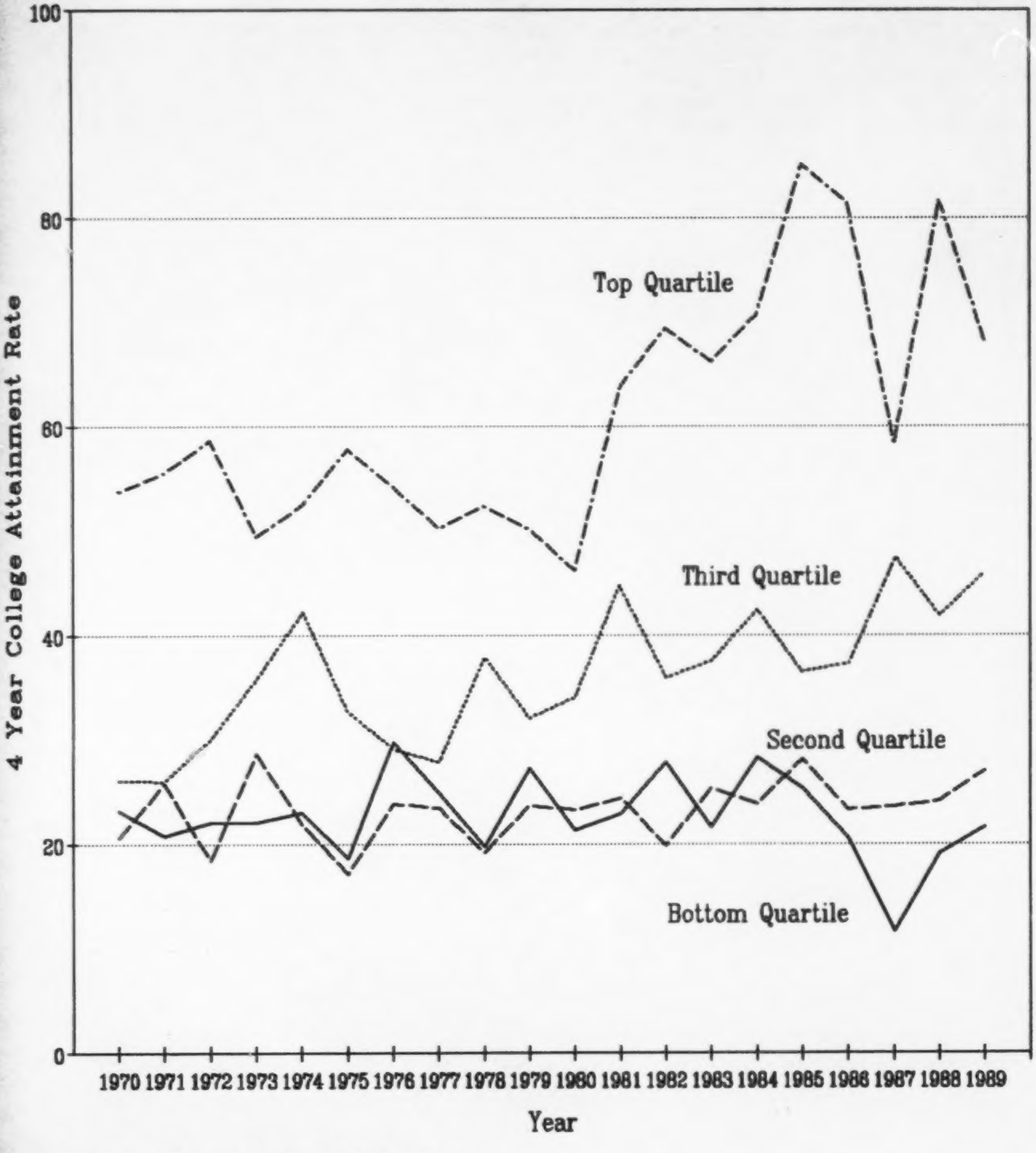
BACCALAUREATE DEGREE ATTAINMENT RATES BY FAMILY INCOME FOR 1980 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WHO STARTED COLLEGE

SPRING, 1986



Source: 1980 High School and Beyond.

FIGURE 47
ESTIMATED 4 YEAR COLLEGE ATTAINMENT RATES BY AGE 24 BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILES FOR UNMARRIED COLLEGE STUDENTS
1970 TO 1989



Source: Current Population Survey and High School and Beyond.

solid data from the Current Population Survey on high school graduation and college participation by family income levels. Thus, despite the tenuousness of the estimation technique, we can have some confidence that they reflect trends and patterns present in the population.

If in fact they hold up under further examination, they offer evidence that suggests the efforts of public policy to facilitate the degree attainment component of educational opportunity for those from low family income backgrounds has not been successful. The influences of the labor market, military draft, and social equity movements of women and blacks prevail over governmental programs and laws focused on providing educational opportunity for economically disadvantaged populations.

V. Summary

During the last twenty-five years, the federal government has sought to expand educational opportunity for economically disadvantaged populations. In 1965 laws were enacted for elementary and secondary education and for higher education that sought to compensate for economic disadvantage through extensive funding support targeted on low income populations. The federal government continues to support these laws by massive annual appropriations and to endorse the public policy they reflect by periodic review and revision of the legislation in which the policy is embodied.

During this same period of time, the family income that measures our standard of living has stagnated. However, many families have prospered during this period, while other families have lost ground. The demarcation line between them has been educational attainment, and the opportunities for economic advancement are increasingly determined by educational attainment.

In this study we have examined high school graduation rates and college participation rates by the family income backgrounds of 18 to 24 year olds. This study has been a bottom-line assessment of the performance of these programs regarding educational attainment of children and young adults between 1970 and 1989.

If one were looking for dramatic improvements in educational attainment resulting from the federal investment in elementary, secondary, and higher education, one would be disappointed. On the other hand, if one were looking for signs of progress in educational attainment among low income populations, one could find them. But the progress has been uneven: in some important situations, progress in one area has been offset by losses in another, and gains during one period have been erased in following periods. With respect to the broad federal policy objectives of enhancing educational attainment by students from low family income backgrounds, the record generally is a sorry one.

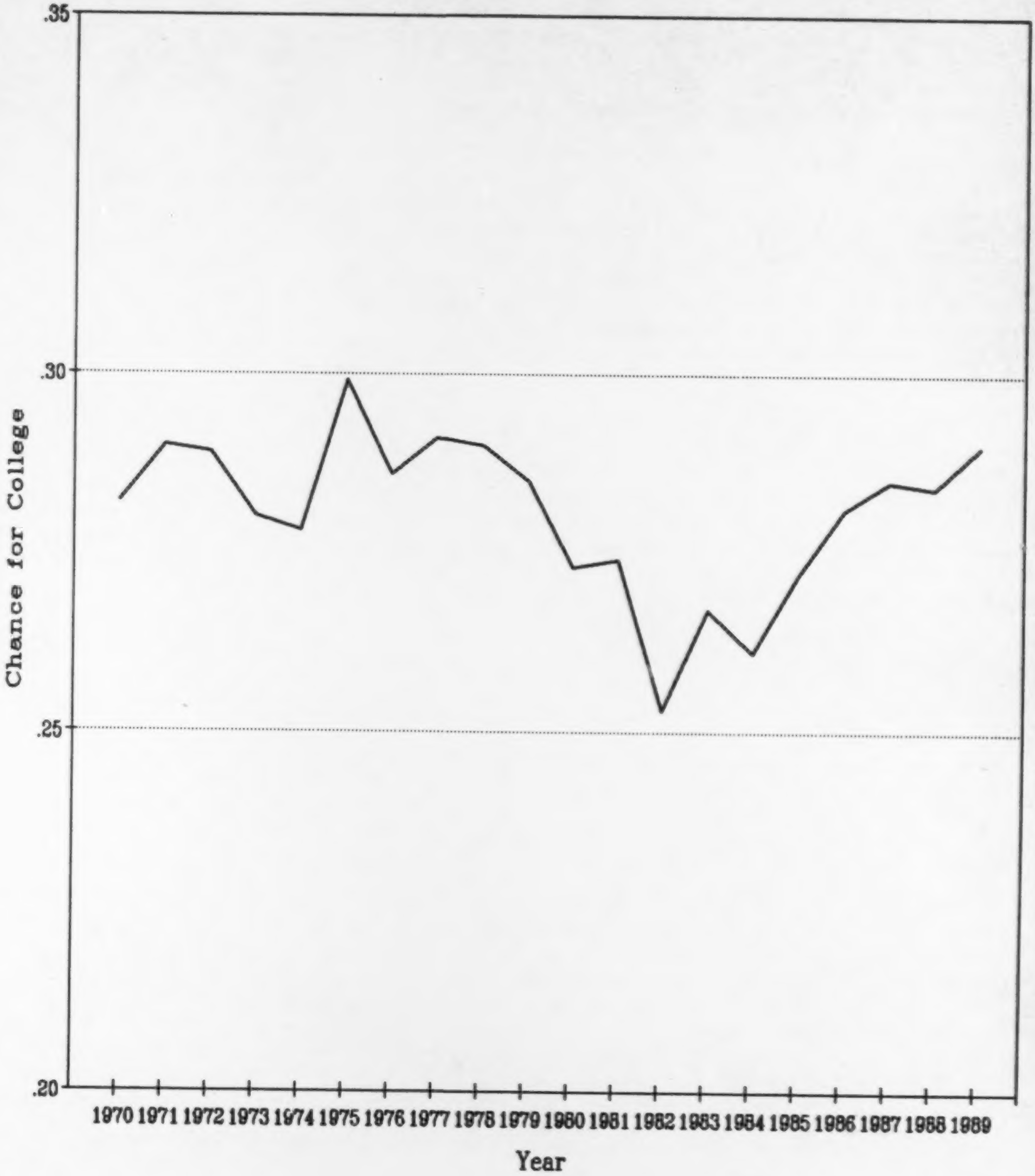
Chances for College for Students from Low Family Income Backgrounds

The CPS data permit us to calculate the chances of enrolling in college for a student from the bottom quartile of the family income distribution (incomes below about $20,000 in 1989). We calculate these chances by multiplying the high school graduation rate times the college participation rate. We have done so for the population of unmarried 18 to 24 year olds from the bottom quartile of the family income distribution for each year between 1970 and 1989. We have also done so for males, females, whites, blacks and Hispanics. The results are shown in Figures 48 through 50.

Overall, the unmarried 18 to 24 year old from the bottom quartile of the family income distribution made almost no progress in both graduating from high school and going on to college between 1970 and 1989. In 1970 the student's chances were 28.2 percent, and by 1989—following two decades of massive federal investment in education for children and young adults from low income families-the student's chances had increased to only 29.0 percent. Out of the population of 4,393,000 from the bottom family income quartile in 1989, the increase in the rate between 1970 and 1989 added just 35,000 to those going on to college after high school.

As Figure 48 clearly shows, chances for college for students from low family income backgrounds dropped sharply between 1979 and 1982—a period when the national economy was in recession. Since 1982—during a period of national economic expansion—the loss has been completely recovered.

FIGURE 48
CHANCE FOR COLLEGE FROM BOTTOM QUARTILE OF FAMILY INCOME FOR UNMARRIED 18 TO 24 YEAR OLDS 1970 TO 1989



The chances for college by gender are shown in Figure 49. These results reveal what the aggregate data in Figure 48 have obscured. The chances for college for females from low family income backgrounds have increased during the last twenty years, while the chances for college for males have decreased. These changes have been substantial and have offset each other in the combined data in Figure 48. For males the decline in chances for college occurred between 1972 and 1980, followed by a small but continuing recovery. For females increased chances for college occurred between 1970 and 1979, followed by a decline through 1984, then followed again by a sharp increase. In the second half of the 1980s, the chances for college for unmarried females age 18 to 24 were at all time highs.

The chances for college by race/ethnicity are shown in Figure 50. For low family income whites, chances for college have averaged around 30 percent over the last two decades, with substantial fluctuations in between. College chances for low family income blacks increased sharply between 1970 and 1976, but have remained stable since then at about 25 percent. The chance for college for low income Hispanics has fluctuated during the 1970s and 1980s, but now stands near the low end of this range at about 20 percent. Among the racial/ethnic subpopulations, only blacks showed much improvement in chances for college, and that improvement ended fifteen years ago.

Chances of Earning a Baccalaureate Degree

At every step in the progression toward a baccalaureate degree from college, students from low family income backgrounds suffer. First they suffer from low high school graduation rates compared to students from high family income backgrounds. Students from low family income backgrounds who manage to graduate from high school are less likely to go on to college than are those who come from high family income backgrounds. Finally, those from low family income backgrounds who do go on to college are less likely to earn a baccalaureate degree within six years of high school graduation than are those from high family income backgrounds.

These conditional probabilities may be cumulated with the result being one's chances of earning a baccalaureate degree by age 24. We have calculated these probabilities based on high school graduation and college participation data developed in this study, and have estimated baccalaureate degree attainment rates developed from the 1980 High School and Beyond study and data developed for the years of this study. The results are presented in Figure 51.

In 1989 a young adult's chances of earning a baccalaureate degree from college were roughly 6 percent if their family income was in the bottom quartile of the family income distribution (incomes below $20,000). A young adult's chances doubled to about 12 percent if their family income was in the second quartile ($20,000 to $35,000). Chances doubled again to about 27 percent if they came from the third quartile of family income ($35,000 to $58,000). And, if the young adult's family income was in the top quartile of family income (above $58,000 per year), their chances of earning a baccalaureate degree doubled yet again to about 55 percent. A young adult from the top quartile of family income had eight to thirteen times greater chance of earning a baccalaureate degree than did a young adult whose family income was in the bottom quartile of the family income distribution.

Over the last twenty years, this disparity of attainment has worsened. The disparity diminished during the 1970s, but largely because bachelor's degree attainment in the top family income quartile declined. Then, during the 1980s the disparity increased suddenly and sharply, again largely because of changes in persistence and attainment in the the top quartile of family income. Clearly, young adults from the third quartile have made steady

FIGURE 49
CHANCE FOR COLLEGE FROM BOTTOM QUARTILE OF FAMILY INCOME FOR UNMARRIED 18 TO 24 YEAR OLDS BY GENDER
1970 TO 1989

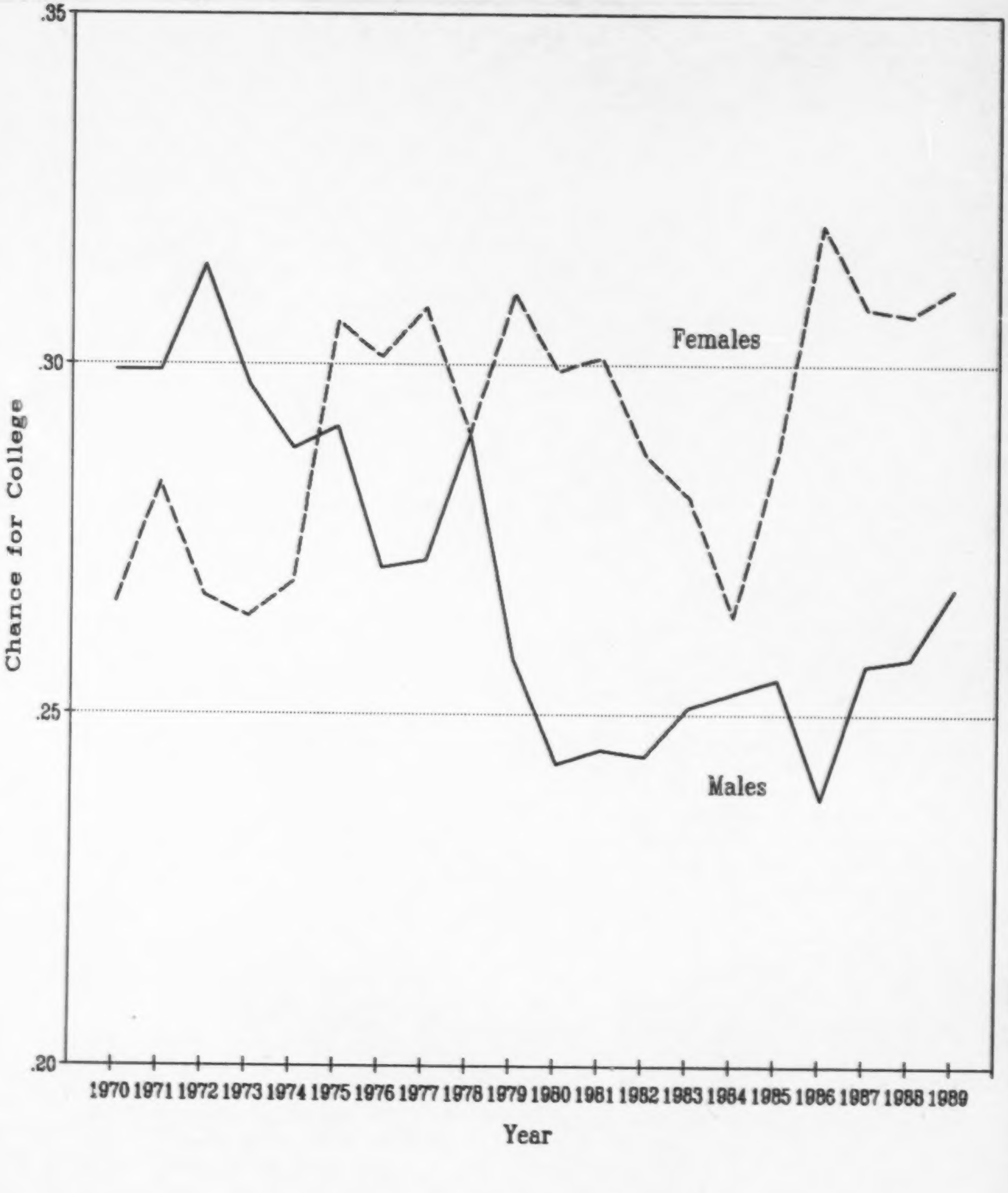


FIGURE 50
CHANCE FOR COLLEGE FROM BOTTOM QUARTILE OF FAMILY INCOME FOR UNMARRIED 18 TO 24 YEAR OLDS BY RACE/ETHNICITY
1970 TO 1989

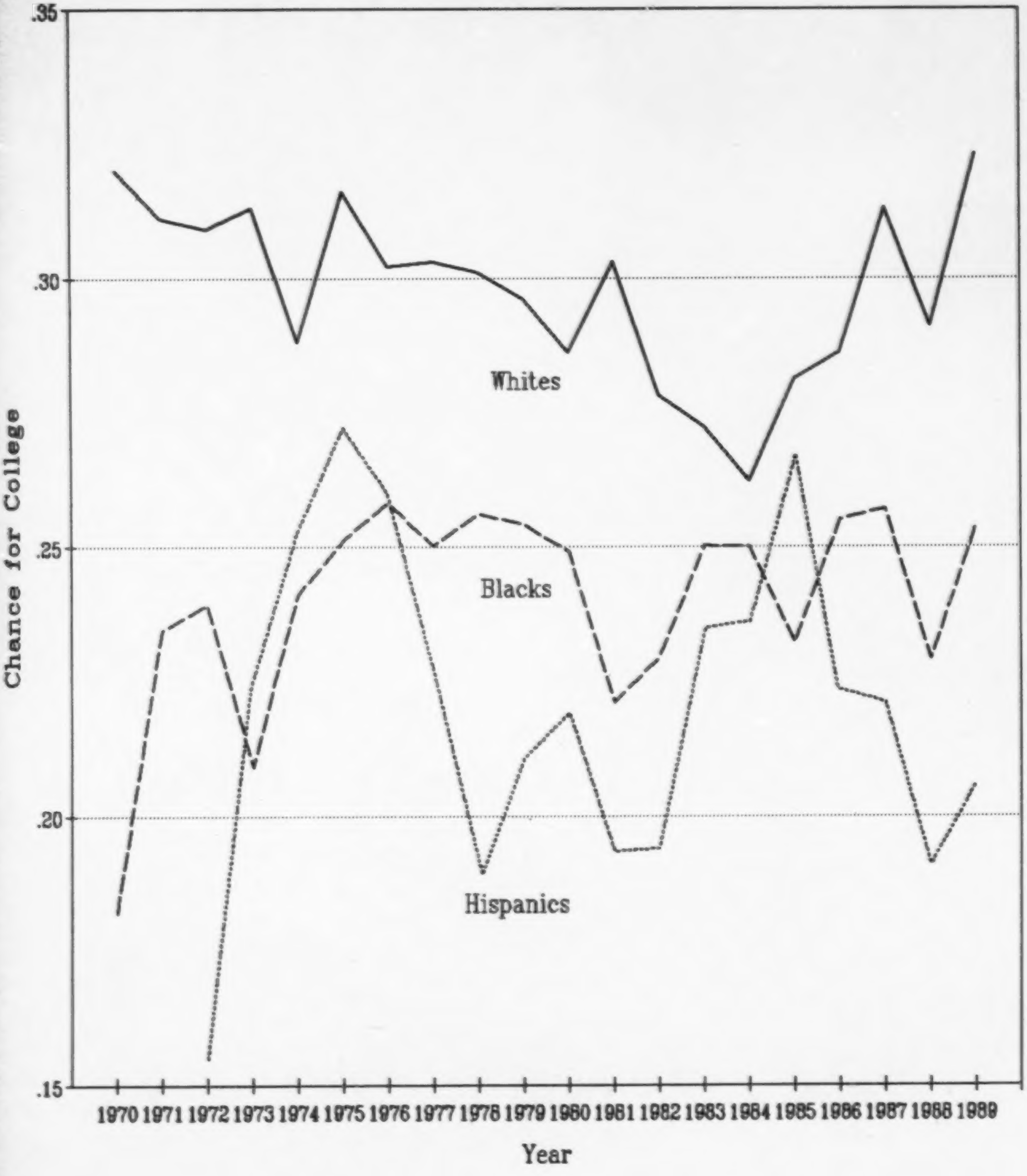
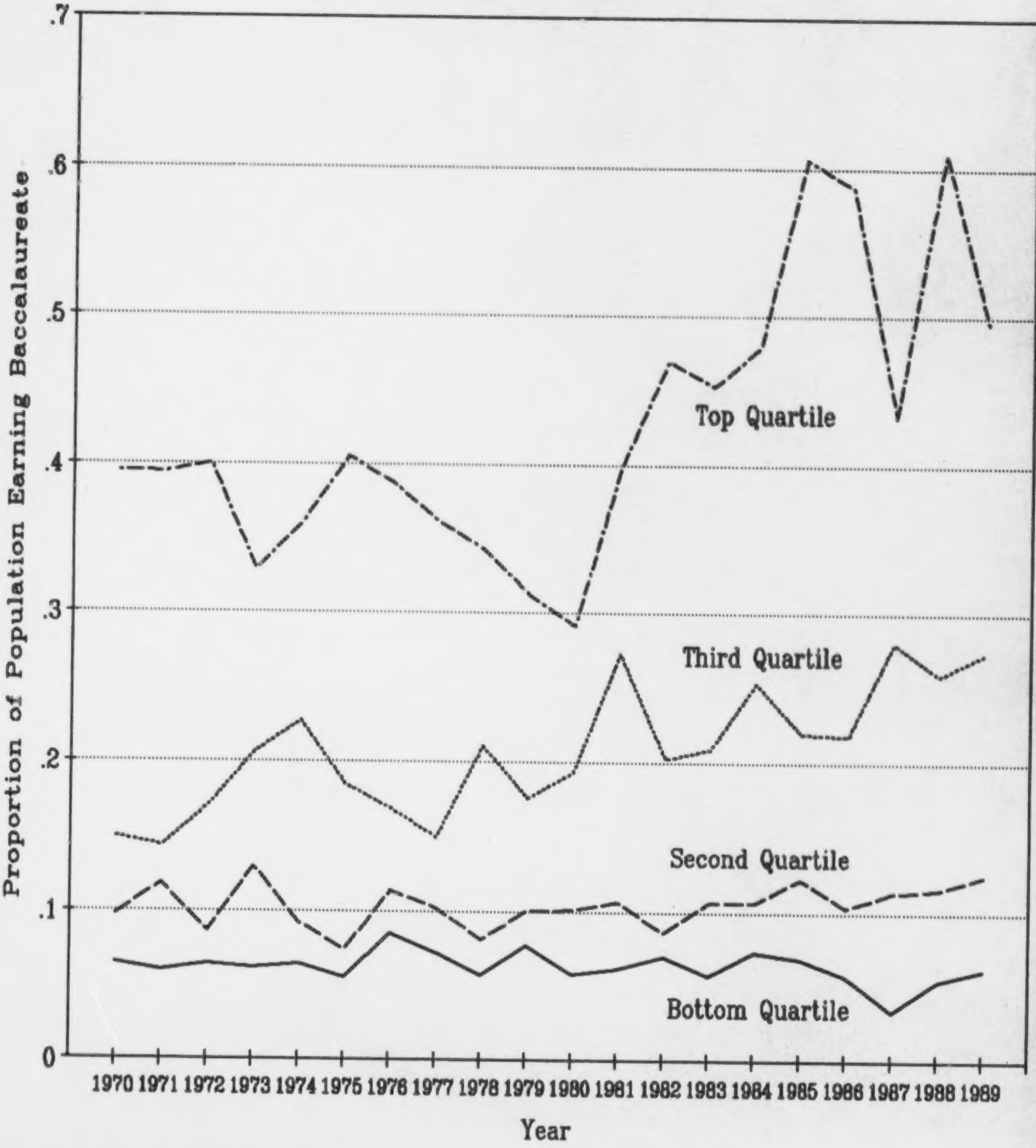


FIGURE 51
ESTIMATED CHANCES FOR A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE BY AGE 24 BY FAMILY INCOME QUARTILE 1970 TO 1989



Source: Data developed in tables, plus estimates.

and substantial progress toward baccalaureate degree attainment during the last twenty years, and one may even see some improvement in the chances for young adults from the second quartile, particularly during the 1980s. But over the last two decades, the chances that a young adult from the bottom family income quartile would earn a bachelor's degree have probably declined absolutely and certainly relative to the top three quartiles.

Numbers of Affected Young Adults

For many reasons the story contained in the numbers has been told in rates--rates of high school graduation, rates of college participation, and rates of degree attainment. But these rates and the form of their presentation for this report obscure the magnitudes of the populations whose educational attainments are the focus of the study.

In 1989 there were 20,482,000 18 to 24 year olds in the civilian, noninstitutional population of the United States. Of these, 5,258,000 were not high school graduates, 6,583,000 were high school graduates who had not participated in college, 5,911,000 were currently enrolled in college, 1,873,000 had left college with one to three years of college study, and 874,000 had left college and completed four years or more of college. The final picture of their educational attainment remains to be taken because many are actively engaged in education and many more will return to the educational system to enhance their educational attainment. For such reasons the years 18 through 24 are particularly dynamic and difficult to capture and report as we have tried to do in this study.

But 18 to 24 is also the time when most people who will earn a baccalaureate degree will do so. Activities and responsibilities of later adult life are relatively minimal when people are still young adults, and higher education is a timely investment in one's self because the lifetime benefits of college are experienced over the longest possible life span.

With this in mind, we have sought in this study to determine who profits from educational investment in young people. The answer--in Figure 58--is clearly those born into families from highest family income levels. In fact nearly half of those earning a baccalaureate degree by the time they are 24 will have come from the top quartile of family income of high school graduates--those families that in 1989 had incomes greater than $58,000 per year. This quartile contains just 22 percent of the population of unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates. Out of 1000 baccalaureate degree holders by age 24, we estimate that 88 came from the bottom quartile, 139 from the second quartile, 284 from the third, and 489 from the top quartile of family income. This is the end product of secondary and higher educational experiences that at every step knock those from lowest family income backgrounds out of the track of educational progress toward the baccalaureate degree.

The Performance of Public Policy

Educational attainment has a high positive correlation with just about any imaginable conception of the best of life's opportunities available in America. In recognition of both the public and private benefits of education, America is partially if not largely defined by its commitment to the education of its citizens, and in recent decades by the equality of opportunity of that commitment. Not just through federal programs, but through educational reform at the state level and through judicial intervention, improvements in educational opportunity for economically disadvantaged populations have become an expensive focus of public policy.

The evidence presented in this report presents a largely unsettling assessment of the performance of public policy over the last two decades. Particularly below the median family income, in the bottom two quartiles of the family incomes of unmarried 18 to 24 year old high school graduates, evidence of success is scanty. It is so limited that we may summarize it in a few brief lines:

- Despite becoming notably poorer during the last two decades, high school graduation rates in the bottom quartile of family income actually increased appreciably between 1984 and 1987. Despite decreasing in 1988 and 1989, they remain above the rates for each year between 1970 and 1983.

- High school graduation rates for females in the bottom quartile of the family income distribution increased appreciably between 1970 and 1979.

- High school graduation rates for blacks from the bottom, second, and third quartiles of family income made notable progress over the last two decades. The greatest increase occurred in the lowest family income quartile.

- Between 1970 and 1979, college participation rates declined less for high school graduates from the bottom quartile of the family income distribution than they did for those from the top three family income quartiles. Thus, during the 1970s, the college participation rate gap closed somewhat for bottom quartile high school graduates.

- Between 1984 and 1989 the college participation rate for high school graduates from the bottom quartile of family income has increased, following 15 years of near steady decline.

Somehow one would hope that the billions of dollars invested in educational opportunity for economically disadvantaged populations could have produced a longer list of more substantial gains.

APPENDIX

TABLE

1 Marital Status of the Population Age 18 to 24 by Race/Ethnicity and Gender, 1970 to 1989
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TABLE 1
Marital Status of Population
Age 18 to 24 By Race/Ethnicity and Gender
1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Race/Ethnicity and Gender			1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Total																						
	Total	Population	20632	21613	22160	22522	22530	22959	23380	23336	23313	23356	23541	24388	24386	24291	23283	22442	21699	21273	20851	20482
		Married	9088	9299	9306	9694	9525	9126	8778	8527	8184	8032	7692	7718	7402	7117	6670	6263	5958	5672	5052	5069
		Married Rate(%)	44.05	43.03	41.99	43.04	42.28	39.75	37.54	36.54	35.10	34.39	32.67	31.65	30.35	29.30	28.65	27.91	27.46	26.66	24.23	24.75
	Male	Population	9498	10071	10447	10690	10673	10915	11108	11166	11107	11159	11300	11748	11830	11757	11310	10831	10488	10215	10010	9896
		Married	3377	3497	3533	3700	3612	3432	3200	3207	3065	3022	2913	2869	2695	2529	2367	2189	2168	2082	1718	1730
		Married Rate(%)	35.55	34.72	33.82	34.61	33.84	31.44	28.81	28.72	27.60	27.08	25.78	24.42	22.78	21.51	20.93	20.21	20.67	20.38	17.16	17.48
	Female	Population	11134	11542	11713	11832	11857	12044	12272	12170	12206	12197	12241	12640	12556	12534	11973	11611	11211	11058	10841	10586
		Married	5711	5802	5773	5994	5913	5694	5578	5320	5119	5010	4779	4849	4707	4588	4303	4074	3790	3590	3334	3339
		Married Rate(%)	51.29	50.27	49.29	50.66	49.87	47.28	45.45	43.71	41.94	41.08	39.04	38.36	37.49	36.60	35.94	35.09	33.80	32.47	30.75	31.54
White																						
	Total	Population	17900	18737	19155	19322	19356	19666	20003	19912	19774	19726	19863	20406	20260	20196	19182	18554	17791	17411	17088	16701
		Married	8198	8433	8418	8706	8547	8185	8028	7765	7519	7327	7071	7070	6673	6526	6038	5540	5354	5085	4532	4570
		Married Rate(%)	45.80	45.01	43.95	45.06	44.16	41.62	40.13	39.00	38.02	37.14	35.60	34.65	32.94	32.31	31.48	29.86	30.09	29.21	26.52	27.36
	Male	Population	8274	8780	9074	9228	9267	9462	9616	9656	9536	9546	9697	9930	9887	9851	9398	9092	8671	8471	8290	8140
		Married	3024	3164	3177	3310	3247	3077	2925	2933	2824	2771	2691	2652	2444	2336	2140	1952	1952	1874	1520	1559
		Married Rate(%)	36.55	36.04	37.74	35.87	35.04	32.52	30.42	30.37	29.61	29.03	27.75	26.71	24.72	23.71	22.77	21.47	22.51	22.12	18.33	19.15
	Female	Population	9626	9957	10081	10094	10089	10204	10387	10256	10238	10180	10166	10476	10373	10345	9784	9462	9120	8940	8797	8561
		Married	5174	5269	5241	5396	5300	5108	5103	4832	4695	4556	4380	4418	4229	4190	3898	3588	3402	3211	3012	3011
		Married Rate(%)	53.75	52.92	51.99	53.46	52.53	50.06	49.13	47.11	45.86	44.75	43.08	42.17	40.77	40.50	39.84	37.92	37.30	35.91	34.25	35.17

Race/Ethnicity and Gender		1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Black																					
Total	Population	2502	2637	2755	2892	2828	2890	2987	3038	3099	3152	3186	3380	3509	3433	3426	3263	3236	3156	3057	3093
	Married	813	790	812	883	838	785	643	657	568	558	495	505	573	405	444	537	443	429	412	363
	Married Rate(%)	32.49	29.96	29.47	30.53	29.63	27.16	21.53	21.63	18.33	17.70	15.54	14.94	16.33	11.80	12.96	16.46	13.69	13.59	13.48	11.74
Male	Population	1122	1185	1258	1320	1260	1275	1310	1329	1368	1387	1394	1520	1620	1578	1581	1459	1505	1413	1379	1406
	Married	334	317	338	362	332	302	241	248	211	198	188	176	205	139	169	184	170	172	168	123
	Married Rate(%)	29.77	26.75	26.87	27.42	26.35	23.69	18.40	18.66	15.42	14.28	13.49	11.58	12.65	8.81	10.69	12.61	11.30	12.17	12.18	8.75
Female	Population	1380	1452	1497	1572	1568	1615	1677	1709	1731	1765	1792	1860	1889	1855	1845	1804	1731	1743	1678	1686
	Married	479	473	474	521	506	483	402	409	357	360	307	329	368	266	275	353	273	257	244	240
	Married Rate(%)	34.71	32.58	31.66	33.14	32.27	29.91	23.97	23.93	20.62	20.40	17.13	17.69	19.48	14.34	14.91	19.57	15.77	14.74	14.54	14.23
Other Race																					
Total	Population	230	239	250	308	346	403	390	386	440	478	492	602	617	662	675	625	672	706	708	688
	Married	77	76	76	105	140	156	107	105	97	147	126	143	156	186	188	186	161	158	108	136
	Married Rate(%)	33.48	31.80	30.40	34.09	40.46	38.71	27.44	27.20	22.05	30.75	25.61	23.75	25.28	28.10	27.85	29.76	23.96	22.38	15.25	19.77
Male	Population	102	106	115	142	146	178	182	181	203	226	209	298	323	328	331	280	312	331	342	351
	Married	19	16	18	28	33	53	34	26	30	53	34	41	46	54	58	53	46	36	31	48
	Married Rate(%)	18.63	15.09	15.65	19.72	22.60	29.78	18.68	14.36	14.78	23.45	16.27	13.76	14.24	16.46	17.52	18.93	14.74	10.88	9.06	13.68
Female	Population	128	133	135	166	200	225	208	205	237	252	283	304	294	334	344	345	360	375	366	337
	Married	58	60	58	77	107	103	73	79	67	94	92	102	110	132	130	133	115	122	77	88
	Married Rate(%)	43.31	45.11	42.96	46.39	53.50	47.78	35.10	38.54	28.27	37.30	32.51	33.55	37.41	39.52	37.79	38.55	31.94	32.53	21.04	26.11
Hispanic																					
Total	Population			1217	1183	1380	1312	1405	1429	1448	1507	1677	1813	1809	1830	1755	1907	2081	2164	2230	2347
	Married			553	540	574	527	594	583	645	651	603	645	659	637	592	596	670	676	691	797
	Married Rate(%)			45.44	45.65	41.59	40.17	42.28	40.80	44.54	43.20	35.96	35.58	36.43	34.81	33.73	31.25	32.20	31.24	30.99	33.96
Male	Population			543	562	639	597	617	636	641	690	792	819	840	845	801	935	1059	1085	1135	1146
	Married			213	218	232	202	202	226	251	244	222	238	243	228	205	250	263	278	261	332
	Married Rate(%)			39.23	38.79	36.31	33.84	32.74	35.53	39.16	35.36	28.03	29.06	28.93	26.98	25.59	26.74	24.83	25.62	23.00	28.97
Female	Population			674	621	741	715	788	793	807	817	885	994	969	985	954	972	1022	1079	1095	1201
	Married			340	322	342	325	392	357	394	407	381	407	416	409	387	346	407	398	430	465
	Married Rate(%)			50.45	51.85	46.15	45.45	49.75	45.02	48.82	49.82	43.05	40.95	42.93	41.52	40.57	35.60	39.82	36.89	39.27	38.72

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 2
High School Graduation for Unmarried Age 18 to 24 By Family Income
1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Population	10636	11401	11811	11632	11869	12517	13112	13342	13508	13821	14718	15694	16037	16363	15675	15462	15268	14899	14891	14187
High School Graduates	8500	9024	9476	9420	9452	10060	10604	10676	10856	11044	11840	12564	12892	13084	12794	12680	12456	12136	12084	11429
Graduation Rate(%)	79.92	79.15	80.23	80.98	79.64	80.37	80.87	80.02	80.37	79.91	80.45	80.06	80.39	79.96	81.62	82.01	81.58	81.46	81.15	80.56
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
Population	3449	3644	3725	3663	3728	3923	4134	4221	4214	4325	4565	4929	5106	5104	4857	4751	4657	4606	4705	4393
High School Graduates	2125	2256	2369	2355	2363	2515	2651	2669	2714	2761	2960	3141	3223	3271	3196	3170	3114	3034	3021	2855
Graduation Rate(%)	61.62	61.92	63.61	64.29	63.38	64.12	64.12	63.22	64.39	63.83	64.83	63.72	63.12	64.08	65.81	66.72	66.86	65.87	64.21	64.99
Difference From Top Quartile	-31.46	-30.81	-29.13	-28.14	-29.48	-29.19	-29.42	-30.93	-27.97	-28.39	-27.03	-27.62	-30.38	-28.71	-27.64	-27.56	-26.45	-28.86	-29.99	-28.16
Second Quartile																				
Population	2536	2766	2839	2795	2931	3104	3158	3274	3305	3414	3624	3851	3906	4059	3874	3838	3827	3674	3606	3494
High School Graduates	2125	2256	2369	2355	2363	2515	2651	2669	2714	2761	2960	3141	3223	3271	3196	3170	3114	3034	3021	2855
Graduation Rate(%)	83.80	81.58	83.45	84.25	80.62	81.03	83.93	81.50	82.11	80.87	81.67	81.56	82.52	80.58	82.49	82.60	81.33	82.58	83.78	81.71
Difference From Top Quartile	-9.28	-11.15	-9.29	-8.18	-12.24	-12.28	-9.61	-12.65	-10.25	-11.35	-10.19	-9.78	-10.98	-12.21	-10.96	-11.68	-11.98	-12.16	-10.42	-11.44
Third Quartile																				
Population	2368	2557	2693	2627	2665	2795	2986	3013	3051	3089	3307	3475	3578	3674	3524	3511	3447	3416	3373	3235
High School Graduates	2125	2256	2369	2355	2363	2515	2651	2669	2714	2761	2960	3141	3223	3271	3196	3170	3114	3034	3021	2855
Graduation Rate(%)	89.74	88.22	87.99	89.65	88.67	89.99	88.77	88.57	88.94	89.38	89.49	90.39	90.08	89.04	90.70	90.28	90.32	88.81	89.56	88.24
Difference From Top Quartile	-3.34	-4.51	-4.75	-2.78	-4.19	-3.32	-4.77	-5.58	-3.42	-2.84	-2.37	-.95	-3.42	-3.75	-2.75	-4.00	-2.99	-5.92	-4.64	-4.91
Top Quartile																				
Population	2283	2433	2555	2548	2544	2695	2834	2834	2938	2994	3222	3439	3447	3525	3420	3362	3337	3203	3207	3065
High School Graduates	2125	2256	2369	2355	2363	2515	2651	2669	2714	2761	2960	3141	3223	3271	3196	3170	3114	3034	3021	2855
Graduation Rate(%)	93.08	92.73	92.74	92.43	92.86	93.31	93.54	94.15	92.36	92.22	91.86	91.34	93.50	92.79	93.45	94.28	93.31	94.73	94.20	93.15

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 3
Male High School Graduation Rates for Unmarried Age 18 to 24 By Family Income
1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Population	5624	6058	6327	6339	6440	6767	7079	7182	7204	7311	7781	8348	8589	8753	8421	8226	8075	7742	7813	7525
High School Graduates	4395	4698	4966	5050	5021	5342	5553	5568	5654	5614	6082	6442	6664	6739	6659	6581	6405	6154	6141	5877
Graduation Rate(%)	78.15	77.55	78.49	79.67	77.97	78.94	78.44	77.53	78.48	76.79	78.16	77.17	77.59	76.99	79.08	80.00	79.32	79.49	78.60	78.10
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
Population	1689	1748	1798	1801	1807	1891	1993	2036	1963	2087	2153	2345	2509	2462	2299	2235	2209	2127	2209	2136
High School Graduates	1019	1035	1108	1127	1112	1148	1189	1200	1209	1205	1315	1375	1462	1462	1411	1431	1385	1335	1334	1306
Graduation Rate(%)	60.32	59.22	61.60	62.55	61.52	60.69	59.65	58.96	61.60	57.76	61.05	58.65	58.27	59.37	61.38	64.04	62.71	62.74	60.39	61.12
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-30.72	-31.55	-29.21	-28.57	-29.51	-32.11	-32.80	-33.65	-28.29	-32.73	-28.68	-30.13	-34.06	-31.83	-30.20	-28.79	-29.44	-30.90	-31.42	-30.57
Second Quartile																				
Population	1367	1517	1616	1565	1676	1755	1770	1791	1829	1816	1982	2100	2178	2296	2203	2173	2145	2015	2018	1930
High School Graduates	1098	1193	1288	1267	1293	1370	1412	1383	1444	1397	1550	1627	1688	1726	1731	1709	1657	1568	1615	1504
Graduation Rate(%)	80.27	78.64	79.71	80.95	77.15	78.06	79.79	77.26	78.94	76.94	78.18	77.50	77.51	75.19	78.56	78.67	77.24	77.81	80.03	77.96
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-10.77	-12.13	-11.10	-10.17	-13.88	-14.74	-12.66	-15.35	-10.95	-13.55	-11.55	-11.28	-14.82	-16.01	-13.02	-14.16	-14.91	-15.83	-11.78	-13.73
Third Quartile																				
Population	1302	1433	1497	1508	1513	1590	1698	1710	1740	1703	1841	1962	1980	2069	1987	1926	1864	1848	1869	1777
High School Graduates	1126	1235	1284	1320	1301	1404	1457	1461	1498	1469	1600	1717	1738	1794	1748	1685	1652	1611	1616	1525
Graduation Rate(%)	86.45	86.21	85.80	87.56	86.05	88.28	85.76	85.46	86.10	86.28	86.93	87.51	87.78	86.73	87.97	87.48	88.61	87.17	86.44	85.80
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-4.59	-4.56	-5.01	-3.56	-4.98	-4.52	-6.69	-7.15	-3.79	-4.21	-2.80	-1.27	-4.55	-4.47	-3.61	-5.35	-3.54	-6.47	-5.37	-5.89
Top Quartile																				
Population	1266	1360	1416	1466	1445	1530	1617	1645	1672	1705	1802	1942	1923	1926	1932	1892	1857	1751	1717	1682
High School Graduates	1153	1234	1286	1335	1315	1420	1495	1524	1503	1543	1617	1724	1776	1757	1769	1756	1711	1640	1576	1542
Graduation Rate(%)	91.04	90.77	90.81	91.12	91.03	92.80	92.45	92.61	89.89	90.49	89.73	88.78	92.33	91.20	91.58	92.83	92.15	93.64	91.81	91.69

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 4
Female High School Graduation Rates for Unmarried Age 18 to 24 By Family Income 1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Population	5011	5342	5484	5293	5429	5750	6033	6160	6303	6509	6936	7346	7447	7609	7253	7237	7195	7157	7088	6662
High School Graduates	4106	4327	4511	4370	4431	4718	5050	5105	5199	5428	5756	6122	6228	6345	6125	6099	6050	5992	5945	5543
Graduation Rate(%)	81.94	81.00	82.26	82.56	81.62	82.05	83.71	82.87	82.48	83.39	82.99	83.34	83.63	83.39	84.45	84.28	84.09	83.72	83.87	83.20
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
Population	1759	1896	1926	1862	1921	2032	2140	2185	2251	2238	2411	2584	2598	2642	2558	2516	2446	2479	2496	2347
High School Graduates	1106	1221	1261	1228	1251	1366	1461	1468	1504	1556	1644	1766	1761	1809	1785	1739	1729	1699	1687	1549
Graduation Rate(%)	62.87	64.41	65.47	65.96	65.12	67.23	68.25	67.20	66.79	69.50	68.19	68.32	67.80	68.47	69.78	69.09	70.61	68.55	67.58	66.06
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-32.76	-30.81	-29.66	-28.23	-30.16	-26.79	-26.75	-29.07	-28.82	-25.00	-26.69	-26.35	-27.16	-26.27	-26.08	-27.10	-24.17	-27.50	-29.39	-28.86
Second Quartile																				
Population	1169	1248	1223	1230	1255	1348	1389	1483	1476	1597	1642	1751	1727	1763	1670	1665	1684	1659	1588	1564
High School Graduates	1028	1063	1077	1089	1070	1145	1239	1285	1270	1363	1416	1514	1535	1545	1465	1461	1457	1466	1406	1381
Graduation Rate(%)	87.94	85.15	88.07	88.51	85.26	84.92	89.26	86.61	86.07	85.34	85.90	86.43	88.84	87.60	87.69	87.73	86.54	88.35	88.54	88.35
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-7.69	-10.07	-7.06	-5.68	-10.02	-9.10	-5.74	-9.66	-9.54	-9.16	-8.98	-8.24	-6.12	-7.14	-8.17	-8.46	-8.24	-7.70	-8.43	-6.57
Third Quartile																				
Population	1066	1124	1196	1119	1152	1204	1288	1303	1311	1386	1466	1514	1598	1605	1537	1585	1543	1568	1504	1458
High School Graduates	999	1021	1089	1034	1061	1111	1194	1207	1215	1292	1357	1424	1485	1477	1448	1484	1461	1422	1406	1330
Graduation Rate(%)	93.75	90.79	91.10	92.41	92.10	92.26	92.74	92.69	92.72	93.19	92.58	94.10	92.94	92.02	94.23	93.63	94.71	90.76	93.45	91.22
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-1.88	-4.43	-4.03	-1.78	-3.18	-1.76	-2.26	-3.58	-2.89	-1.31	-2.30	-0.57	-2.02	-2.72	-1.63	-2.56	-0.07	-5.29	-3.52	-3.70
Top Quartile																				
Population	1017	1073	1139	1082	1100	1165	1216	1189	1265	1288	1417	1497	1524	1598	1488	1470	1480	1452	1491	1383
High School Graduates	972	1021	1083	1019	1049	1096	1155	1145	1210	1218	1344	1417	1447	1514	1427	1414	1403	1394	1446	1313
Graduation Rate(%)	95.63	95.22	95.13	94.19	95.28	94.02	95.00	96.27	95.61	94.50	94.88	94.67	94.96	94.74	95.86	96.19	94.78	96.05	96.97	94.92

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 5
White High School Graduation for Unmarried Age 18 to 24 By Family Income 1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Population	8925	9519	9794	9587	9833	10362	10713	10860	10900	11180	11820	12529	12756	12982	12289	12433	12030	11455	11767	11028
High School Graduates	7469	7860	8160	8079	8144	8700	8989	9021	9091	9292	9838	10359	10617	10767	10331	10451	10035	9591	9774	9236
Graduation Rate(%)	83.69	82.57	83.32	84.27	82.82	83.96	83.91	83.07	83.40	83.11	83.23	82.69	83.23	82.94	84.07	84.06	83.42	83.73	83.06	83.76
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
Population	2358	2405	2431	2405	2399	2471	2620	2612	2552	2686	2734	2926	3131	3023	2907	3033	2858	2669	2973	2588
High School Graduates	1571	1572	1617	1634	1609	1707	1763	1732	1718	1816	1864	1934	2045	1976	1931	2057	1914	1763	1894	1788
Graduation Rate(%)	66.61	65.38	66.51	67.94	67.07	69.07	67.30	66.31	67.32	67.61	68.18	66.11	65.32	65.37	66.42	67.82	66.96	66.08	63.72	69.10
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-27.02	-28.12	-26.99	-25.15	-25.84	-24.37	-26.35	-27.99	-25.41	-24.74	-23.91	-25.45	-28.17	-27.68	-27.31	-26.34	-26.58	-28.68	-30.58	-24.30
Second Quartile																				
Population	2200	2427	2498	2416	2531	2677	2660	2778	2778	2823	2991	3205	3201	3350	3044	3112	3023	2865	2938	2773
High School Graduates	1876	2005	2104	2073	2069	2204	2268	2280	2306	2317	2438	2603	2657	2748	2537	2584	2458	2379	2484	2287
Graduation Rate(%)	85.26	82.61	84.22	85.79	81.73	82.33	85.26	82.06	83.02	82.08	81.52	81.22	83.01	82.04	83.35	83.04	81.30	83.05	84.55	82.48
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-8.37	-10.89	-9.28	-7.30	-11.18	-11.11	-8.37	-12.24	-9.71	-10.27	-10.57	-10.34	-10.48	-11.01	-10.38	-11.12	-12.24	-11.71	-9.75	-10.92
Third Quartile																				
Population	2167	2373	2466	2394	2460	2610	2726	2765	2799	2826	3066	3208	3195	3319	3182	3112	3008	3004	2953	2837
High School Graduates	1962	2119	2196	2164	2197	2356	2423	2457	2497	2531	2748	2902	2896	2981	2905	2820	2726	2684	2657	2519
Graduation Rate(%)	90.53	89.30	89.06	90.41	89.29	90.27	88.89	88.87	89.21	89.55	89.61	90.45	90.63	89.82	91.30	90.63	90.62	89.34	89.97	88.76
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-3.10	-4.20	-4.44	-2.68	-3.62	-3.17	-4.76	-5.43	-3.52	-2.80	-2.48	-1.11	-2.86	-3.23	-2.43	-3.53	-2.92	-5.42	-4.33	-4.64
Top Quartile																				
Population	2199	2314	2399	2372	2442	2604	2708	2705	2772	2845	3029	3189	3230	3291	3156	3176	3140	2918	2904	2828
High School Graduates	2059	2164	2243	2208	2269	2433	2536	2551	2570	2627	2789	2920	3019	3062	2958	2991	2937	2765	2738	2641
Graduation Rate(%)	93.63	93.50	93.50	93.09	92.91	93.44	93.65	94.30	92.73	92.35	92.09	91.56	93.49	93.05	93.73	94.16	93.54	94.76	94.30	93.40

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 6
Black High School Graduation for Unmarried Age 18 to 24 By Family Income 1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Population	1568	1737	1847	1868	1852	1948	2156	2231	2309	2367	2563	2714	2829	2930	2923	2634	2739	2619	2351	2501
High School Graduates	908	1046	1185	1195	1174	1195	1418	1436	1517	1529	1730	1853	1920	1984	2110	1910	2008	1905	1644	1815
Graduation Rate(%)	57.91	60.22	64.16	63.97	63.39	61.34	65.77	64.37	65.70	64.60	67.50	68.28	67.87	67.71	72.19	72.51	73.31	72.74	69.93	72.57
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
Population	1035	1171	1216	1200	1244	1369	1417	1513	1541	1536	1711	1849	1835	1905	1755	1572	1576	1475	1354	1453
High School Graduates	512	635	700	684	695	748	823	860	908	872	1026	1117	1092	1190	1142	1012	1044	964	792	967
Graduation Rate(%)	49.45	54.20	57.55	57.01	55.85	54.63	58.96	56.85	58.91	56.77	59.90	60.43	59.51	62.47	65.09	64.37	66.23	65.34	58.47	65.85
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-24.85	-20.20	-21.10	-24.26	-36.09	-32.62	-31.04	-32.20	-27.67	-33.14	-25.32	-29.51	-33.07	-27.13	-26.66	-32.72	-20.08	-27.75	-34.82	-19.94
Second Quartile																				
Population	289	304	311	332	357	371	436	438	465	508	545	531	602	619	716	658	703	666	528	618
High School Graduates	206	219	236	243	266	267	331	335	353	374	443	434	482	451	571	531	569	525	438	498
Graduation Rate(%)	71.21	72.08	75.98	73.21	74.52	72.06	75.85	76.52	75.95	73.62	81.34	81.79	80.12	72.92	79.72	80.72	80.99	78.83	82.99	80.47
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-3.09	-2.32	-2.67	-8.06	-17.42	-15.19	-14.15	-12.53	-10.63	-16.29	-3.88	-8.15	-12.46	-16.68	-12.03	-16.37	-5.32	-14.26	-10.30	-5.32
Third Quartile																				
Population	169	161	202	196	182	136	210	198	186	218	180	177	289	260	265	300	340	310	319	300
High School Graduates	134	117	156	154	149	117	181	168	155	189	154	160	249	212	225	265	292	260	274	249
Graduation Rate(%)	79.17	72.73	77.30	78.57	81.85	86.04	86.19	84.69	83.29	86.57	85.39	90.40	86.22	81.44	84.98	88.33	85.97	83.82	85.99	83.12
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	+4.87	-1.67	-1.35	-2.70	-10.09	-1.21	-3.81	-4.36	-3.29	-3.34	+0.17	+0.46	-6.36	-8.16	-6.77	-8.76	-0.34	-9.27	-7.30	-2.67
Top Quartile																				
Population	74	101	118	141	69	72	92	82	117	105	127	158	104	146	187	104	120	168	150	130
High School Graduates	55	75	93	114	63	63	83	73	101	94	108	142	96	131	172	101	104	156	140	111
Graduation Rate(%)	74.30	74.40	78.65	81.27	91.94	87.25	90.00	89.05	86.58	89.91	85.22	89.94	92.58	89.60	91.75	97.09	86.31	93.09	93.29	85.79

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 7
Other Race High School Graduation for Unmarried Age 18 to 24 By Family Income
1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Population	143	145	170	177	184	207	243	251	299	274	335	452	452	451	463	395	499	825	773	660
High School Graduates	123	118	131	146	134	165	197	219	248	223	272	352	355	333	343	319	413	640	666	370
Participation Rate(%)	86.01	81.38	77.06	82.49	72.83	79.71	81.07	87.25	82.94	81.39	81.19	77.88	78.54	73.84	74.08	80.76	82.77	77.58	86.16	56.06
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
Population	56	68	78	58	85	83	97	96	121	103	120	154	140	176	195	146	222	463	378	352
High School Graduates	42	46	52	37	61	60	65	77	88	73	71	90	86	105	123	101	156	307	335	110
Participation Rate(%)	75.00	67.65	66.67	63.79	71.76	72.29	67.01	80.21	72.73	70.87	59.17	58.44	61.43	59.66	63.08	69.18	70.27	66.31	88.62	31.25
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-25.00	-26.79	-20.17	-30.50	-22.18	-27.71	-27.11	-15.53	-15.03	-20.04	-27.43	-27.43	-34.15	-28.98	-22.63	-25.94	-24.54	-30.27	-4.84	-65.01
Second Quartile																				
Population	47	35	30	47	43	56	62	58	62	83	88	115	103	90	114	68	101	143	140	103
High School Graduates	43	32	29	39	28	44	52	54	55	70	79	104	84	72	88	55	87	130	99	70
Participation Rate(%)	91.49	91.43	96.67	82.98	65.12	78.57	83.87	93.10	88.71	84.34	89.77	90.43	81.55	80.00	77.19	80.88	86.14	90.91	70.71	67.96
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-8.51	-3.01	+9.83	-11.31	-28.82	-21.43	-10.25	-2.64	+0.95	-6.57	-5.68	-4.56	-14.03	-8.64	-8.52	-14.24	-8.67	-5.67	-22.75	-28.30
Third Quartile																				
Population	32	23	25	37	23	49	50	50	66	45	61	90	94	95	77	99	99	102	101	98
High School Graduates	29	20	17	37	17	47	47	44	62	41	58	79	78	78	66	85	96	90	90	89
Participation Rate(%)	90.63	86.96	68.00	100.00	73.91	95.92	94.00	88.00	93.94	91.11	95.08	87.78	82.98	82.11	85.71	85.86	96.97	88.24	89.11	90.82
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-9.37	-7.48	-18.84	+5.71	-20.03	-4.08	-0.12	-7.74	+6.18	+0.20	-0.37	+1.91	-12.60	-6.53	0.00	-9.26	+2.16	-8.34	-4.35	-5.44
Top Quartile																				
Population	10	18	38	35	33	19	34	47	49	44	66	92	113	88	77	82	77	117	153	107
High School Graduates	10	17	33	33	31	19	32	45	43	40	63	79	108	78	66	78	73	113	143	103
Participation Rate(%)	100.00	94.44	86.84	94.29	93.94	100.00	94.12	95.74	87.76	90.91	95.45	85.87	95.58	88.64	85.71	95.12	94.81	96.58	93.46	96.26

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 8
Hispanic High School Graduation Rates for Unmarried Age 18 to 24 By Family Income 1972 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Population	626	599	770	731	720	757	714	781	1015	1113	1089	1144	1111	1282	1395	1443	1423	1357
High School Graduates	338	366	440	446	460	451	408	485	589	645	674	686	722	826	892	913	859	835
Graduation Rate(%)	53.99	61.10	57.14	61.01	63.89	59.58	57.14	62.10	58.03	57.95	61.89	59.97	64.99	64.43	63.94	63.27	60.37	61.53
Family Income Quartiles																		
Bottom Quartile																		
Population	371	342	411	383	399	433	427	401	499	543	599	583	563	651	735	751	730	698
High School Graduates	157	165	192	179	204	217	196	209	234	254	291	280	295	362	398	395	337	318
Graduation Rate(%)	42.30	48.22	46.72	46.72	51.17	50.08	45.87	52.12	46.87	46.74	48.60	48.05	52.40	55.56	54.16	52.57	46.18	45.48
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-47.91	-33.27	-27.40	-35.13	-37.65	-33.21	-40.60	-35.37	-42.38	-36.53	-35.85	-38.88	-36.23	-29.66	-39.79	-41.53	-33.32	-39.65
Second Quartile																		
Population	145	148	205	197	155	166	174	224	301	342	265	304	272	350	410	434	431	361
High School Graduates	95	111	137	142	117	113	119	144	183	209	200	196	184	237	273	295	314	271
Graduation Rate(%)	65.41	75.18	66.80	72.04	75.33	68.03	68.45	64.23	60.70	61.25	75.52	64.50	67.61	67.64	66.60	67.94	72.78	75.25
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-24.80	-6.31	-7.32	-9.81	-13.49	-15.26	-18.02	-23.26	-28.55	-22.02	-8.93	-22.43	-21.02	-17.58	-27.35	-26.16	-6.72	-9.88
Third Quartile																		
Population	74	72	93	73	105	99	76	80	128	130	140	159	154	163	163	179	202	194
High School Graduates	55	59	67	60	84	72	61	66	95	101	111	125	134	127	138	149	160	157
Graduation Rate(%)	74.20	81.51	71.86	82.67	79.83	72.91	80.43	82.15	74.22	77.76	79.23	78.85	86.99	78.02	84.66	83.39	79.40	80.82
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-16.01	+0.02	-2.26	+0.82	-8.99	-10.38	-6.04	-5.34	-15.03	-5.51	-5.22	-8.08	-1.64	-7.20	-9.29	-10.71	-0.10	-4.31
Top Quartile																		
Population	35	37	61	78	61	59	37	75	86	98	85	99	122	117	87	79	60	104
High School Graduates	32	30	45	64	54	49	32	66	77	82	72	86	108	100	82	74	48	89
Graduation Rate(%)	90.21	81.49	74.12	81.85	88.82	83.29	86.47	87.49	89.25	83.27	84.45	86.93	88.63	85.22	93.95	94.10	79.50	85.13

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 9
Distribution of Unmarried High School Graduates 18 to 24 By Gender, Race/Ethnicity, and Family Income 1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Family Income Quartiles	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
High School Graduates	8500	9025	9477	9419	9452	10060	10603	10674	10854	11043	11838	12564	12892	13084	12784	12679	12455	12136	12084	11420
Gender																				
Male HSG	4395	4698	4966	5049	5021	5342	5553	5569	5655	5615	6082	6443	6664	6739	6659	6581	6405	6154	6139	5877
Male Share(%)	51.71	52.06	52.40	53.60	53.12	53.10	52.37	52.17	52.10	50.85	51.38	51.28	51.69	51.51	52.09	51.90	51.43	50.71	50.80	51.46
Female HSG	4105	4327	4511	4370	4431	4718	5050	5105	5199	5428	5756	6121	6228	6345	6125	6098	6050	5982	5945	5543
Female Share(%)	48.29	47.94	47.60	46.40	46.88	46.90	47.63	47.83	47.90	49.15	48.62	48.72	48.31	48.49	47.91	48.10	48.57	49.29	49.20	48.54
Race																				
White HSG	7469	7860	8160	8079	8144	8700	8989	9021	9091	9292	9838	10359	10617	10767	10331	10451	10035	9591	9774	9235
White Share(%)	87.87	87.09	86.10	85.77	86.16	86.48	84.78	84.51	83.76	84.14	83.11	82.45	82.36	82.29	80.81	82.43	80.57	79.03	80.88	80.87
Black HSG	908	1046	1185	1195	1174	1195	1418	1436	1517	1529	1730	1853	1920	1984	2110	1910	2008	1905	1644	1815
Black Share(%)	10.68	11.59	12.50	12.69	12.42	11.88	13.37	13.45	13.98	13.85	14.61	14.75	14.89	15.16	16.51	15.06	16.12	15.70	13.60	15.89
Other Race HSG	123	119	132	145	134	165	196	217	246	222	270	352	355	333	343	318	412	640	666	370
Other Share(%)	1.45	1.32	1.39	1.54	1.42	1.64	1.85	2.03	2.27	2.01	2.28	2.80	2.75	2.55	2.68	2.51	3.31	5.27	5.51	3.24
Ethnicity																				
Hispanic HSG			338	366	440	446	460	451	408	485	589	645	674	686	722	826	892	913	859	835
Hispanic Share(%)			3.57	3.88	4.66	4.43	4.34	4.23	3.76	4.39	4.98	5.13	5.23	5.24	5.65	6.51	7.16	7.52	7.11	7.31
Bottom Quartile																				
High School Graduates	2125	2256	2369	2355	2363	2515	2651	2669	2714	2761	2960	3141	3223	3271	3196	3170	3114	3034	3021	2855
Gender																				
Male HSG	1019	1035	1108	1127	1112	1148	1189	1200	1209	1205	1315	1375	1462	1462	1411	1431	1385	1335	1334	1306
Male Share(%)	47.96	45.88	46.76	47.84	47.05	45.63	44.86	44.96	44.57	43.66	44.42	43.79	45.35	44.69	44.15	45.15	44.48	43.99	44.16	45.74
Female HSG	1106	1221	1261	1228	1251	1366	1461	1468	1504	1556	1644	1766	1761	1809	1785	1739	1729	1699	1687	1549
Female Share(%)	52.04	54.12	53.23	52.16	52.95	54.32	55.11	55.02	55.41	56.34	55.55	56.21	54.65	55.31	55.84	54.85	55.52	56.01	55.84	54.26
Race																				
White HSG	1571	1572	1617	1634	1609	1707	1763	1732	1718	1816	1864	1934	2045	1976	1931	2057	1914	1763	1894	1788
White Share(%)	73.95	69.66	68.26	69.38	68.11	67.86	66.49	64.90	63.30	65.78	62.97	61.57	63.44	60.39	60.42	64.88	61.46	58.11	62.71	62.63

Family Income Quartiles	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Black HSG	512	635	700	684	695	748	823	860	908	872	1025	1117	1092	1190	1142	1012	1044	964	792	957
Black Share(%)	24.10	28.15	29.55	29.04	29.43	29.72	31.04	32.23	33.47	31.59	34.64	35.56	33.89	36.38	35.74	31.93	33.52	31.77	26.23	33.52
Other Race HSG	42	49	52	37	59	60	65	77	88	73	71	90	86	105	123	101	156	307	335	110
Other Share(%)	1.98	2.17	2.20	1.57	2.51	2.39	2.45	2.88	3.24	2.64	2.36	2.87	2.67	3.21	3.85	3.19	5.01	10.12	11.09	3.85
Ethnicity																				
Hispanic HSG			157	165	192	179	204	217	196	209	234	254	291	280	295	362	398	395	337	318
Hispanic Share(%)			6.61	7.01	8.10	7.13	7.70	8.14	7.22	7.57	7.89	8.08	9.04	8.55	9.24	11.41	12.80	13.01	11.17	11.14
Second Quartile																				
High School Graduates	2125	2256	2369	2355	2363	2515	2651	2669	2714	2761	2960	3141	3223	3271	3196	3170	3114	3034	3021	2855
Gender																				
Male HSG	1098	1193	1288	1267	1293	1370	1412	1383	1444	1397	1550	1627	1688	1726	1731	1709	1657	1568	1615	1504
Male Share(%)	51.65	52.87	54.37	53.80	54.71	54.48	53.27	51.84	53.20	50.62	52.37	51.80	52.38	52.77	54.16	53.92	53.21	51.69	53.46	52.68
Female HSG	1028	1063	1077	1089	1070	1145	1239	1286	1270	1363	1410	1514	1535	1545	1465	1461	1457	1466	1406	1351
Female Share(%)	48.36	47.13	45.46	46.23	45.29	45.53	46.76	48.16	46.81	49.38	47.66	48.20	47.61	47.22	45.85	46.08	46.79	48.30	46.55	47.32
Race																				
White HSG	1876	2005	2104	2073	2069	2204	2268	2281	2306	2317	2438	2603	2657	2748	2537	2584	2458	2379	2484	2287
White Share(%)	88.30	88.86	88.81	88.05	87.56	87.64	85.54	85.47	85.00	83.94	82.38	82.88	82.44	84.01	79.37	81.52	78.93	78.40	82.23	80.11
Black HSG	206	219	236	243	266	267	332	335	353	374	443	434	482	451	571	531	569	525	437	498
Black Share(%)	9.70	9.70	9.96	10.31	11.27	10.62	12.51	12.55	13.01	13.54	14.98	13.82	14.97	13.80	17.86	16.76	18.27	17.29	14.46	17.44
Other Race HSG	43	32	29	39	28	44	51	53	55	70	79	104	84	72	88	55	87	130	100	70
Other Share(%)	2.02	1.42	1.22	1.66	1.18	1.75	1.92	1.99	2.03	2.54	2.67	3.31	2.61	2.20	2.75	1.74	2.79	4.28	3.31	2.45
Ethnicity																				
Hispanic HSG			95	111	137	142	117	113	119	144	183	209	200	196	184	237	273	295	314	271
Hispanic Share(%)			4.00	4.71	5.80	5.66	4.42	4.23	4.39	5.21	6.18	6.65	6.20	5.98	5.75	7.47	8.78	9.74	10.40	9.49
Third Quartile																				
High School Graduates	2125	2256	2369	2355	2363	2515	2651	2669	2714	2761	2960	3141	3223	3271	3196	3170	3114	3034	3021	2855
Gender																				
Male HSG	1126	1235	1284	1320	1302	1404	1457	1461	1498	1469	1600	1717	1738	1794	1748	1685	1652	1611	1616	1525
Male Share(%)	52.99	54.74	54.20	56.05	55.10	55.83	54.96	54.74	55.20	53.21	54.05	54.66	53.92	54.85	54.69	53.15	53.05	53.09	53.49	53.43

Family Income Quartiles	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Female HSG	999	1021	1083	1034	1061	1111	1196	1307	1216	1291	1387	1434	1485	1477	1448	1494	1461	1423	1406	1330
Female Share(%)	47.81	45.28	46.97	43.91	44.98	44.17	45.04	45.32	44.77	46.79	45.84	45.34	46.08	46.16	46.31	46.81	46.93	46.90	48.54	46.58
Race																				
White HSG	1982	2119	2196	2104	2197	2308	2423	2407	2497	2531	2746	2902	2896	2961	2905	2928	2726	2884	2607	2519
White Share(%)	92.33	93.65	92.76	91.88	92.88	93.65	91.40	92.06	92.00	91.67	92.84	92.38	89.85	91.12	90.80	88.95	87.54	88.48	87.96	88.23
Black HSG	134	117	156	154	149	117	161	168	155	189	184	166	249	212	225	265	292	280	274	248
Black Share(%)	6.31	5.19	6.59	6.54	6.21	4.65	6.82	6.29	5.71	6.85	5.30	5.09	7.73	6.48	7.04	8.36	9.38	8.57	9.07	8.72
Other Race HSG	29	20	17	37	17	42	47	44	63	41	56	79	78	78	66	85	96	90	88	87
Other Share(%)	1.36	0.87	0.72	1.57	0.72	1.67	1.77	1.65	2.28	1.48	1.96	2.53	2.43	2.38	2.07	2.60	3.08	2.97	2.98	3.05
Ethnicity																				
Hispanic HSG			55	59	67	60	84	72	61	66	96	101	111	125	134	137	138	149	160	167
Hispanic Share(%)			2.32	2.51	2.84	2.30	3.17	2.70	2.25	2.30	3.21	3.23	3.44	3.83	4.19	4.81	4.43	4.91	5.30	5.80
Top Quartile																				
High School Graduates	2125	2256	2369	2356	2363	2515	2651	2669	2714	2761	2980	3141	3223	3271	3196	3170	3114	3034	3021	2855
Gender																				
Male HSG	453	1234	1286	1335	1315	1420	1495	1524	1503	1543	1617	1724	1776	1757	1769	1756	1711	1648	1576	1542
Male Share(%)	54.26	54.70	54.28	56.69	55.65	56.46	56.29	57.10	55.38	55.89	54.63	54.89	55.10	53.71	55.35	55.39	54.95	54.25	52.17	54.01
Female HSG	972	1022	1083	1019	1049	1096	1156	1145	1210	1218	1364	1417	1447	1514	1427	1414	1403	1396	1446	1312
Female Share(%)	45.74	45.30	45.72	43.27	44.39	43.55	43.57	42.90	44.58	44.11	45.41	45.11	44.90	46.29	44.65	44.61	45.06	45.95	47.86	45.99
Race																				
White HSG	2050	2164	2243	2208	2289	2433	2536	2551	2570	2637	2789	2920	3019	3062	2958	2991	2937	2765	2738	2641
White Share(%)	96.89	95.92	94.68	93.76	96.02	96.74	95.66	95.56	94.69	95.15	94.22	92.96	93.67	93.61	92.55	94.35	94.32	91.13	90.63	92.50
Black HSG	55	75	93	114	63	63	83	73	101	94	108	142	96	131	172	101	104	156	140	111
Black Share(%)	2.59	3.32	3.93	4.84	2.67	2.50	3.13	2.74	3.72	3.40	3.65	4.52	2.98	4.00	5.38	3.19	3.34	5.14	4.63	3.89
Other Race HSG	10	17	33	33	21	19	32	45	43	40	63	79	108	78	66	78	73	113	143	103
Other Share(%)	0.47	0.75	1.39	1.40	1.31	0.76	1.21	1.69	1.58	1.45	2.13	2.52	3.35	2.38	2.07	2.46	2.34	3.72	4.73	3.61
Ethnicity																				
Hispanic HSG			32	30	45	64	54	49	32	66	77	82	72	86	108	100	82	74	46	90
Hispanic Share(%)			1.35	1.27	1.90	2.54	2.04	1.84	1.18	2.39	2.60	2.61	2.23	2.62	3.38	3.15	2.63	2.44	1.88	3.15

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 10
High School Graduation for Married
Age 18 to 24 By Family Income
1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Population	8590	8786	8838	9167	9068	8644	8292	8035	7731	7526	7428	7470	7329	6956	6484	6164	5852	5517	4904	4869
High School Graduates	6472	6736	6796	7153	7153	6828	6390	6234	6015	5815	5841	5877	5657	5399	5045	4877	4616	4331	3823	3804
Graduation Rate(%)	75.34	76.67	76.90	78.03	78.88	78.99	77.06	77.59	77.80	77.27	78.63	78.67	77.20	77.62	77.81	79.12	78.88	78.50	77.96	78.13
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
Population	2494	2571	2550	2653	2645	2540	2479	2451	2339	2252	2292	2182	2242	2181	1966	1919	1807	1726	1496	1513
High School Graduates	1618	1684	1699	1788	1788	1707	1598	1559	1504	1454	1460	1469	1397	1347	1261	1219	1154	1083	956	951
Graduation Rate(%)	64.86	65.51	66.64	67.39	67.61	67.19	64.43	63.58	64.29	64.56	63.71	67.35	62.31	61.75	64.20	63.55	63.86	62.72	63.92	62.85
Difference From Top Quartile	-21.68	-23.64	-21.54	-20.55	-22.11	-23.22	-24.85	-28.39	-26.32	-24.95	-26.23	-20.80	-27.19	-30.36	-26.24	-27.77	-27.50	-28.14	-27.58	-30.84
Second Quartile																				
Population	2204	2296	2288	2345	2345	2248	2150	2063	1953	1890	1801	1889	1801	1738	1631	1532	1461	1367	1237	1235
High School Graduates	1618	1684	1699	1788	1788	1707	1598	1559	1504	1454	1460	1469	1397	1347	1261	1219	1154	1083	956	951
Graduation Rate(%)	73.41	73.36	74.27	76.24	76.25	75.94	74.29	75.53	76.99	76.90	81.06	77.78	77.54	77.52	77.33	79.59	78.99	79.24	77.28	76.99
Difference From Top Quartile	-13.13	-15.79	-13.91	-11.70	-13.47	-14.47	-14.99	-16.44	-13.62	-12.61	-8.88	-10.37	-11.96	-14.59	-13.11	-11.73	-12.37	-11.62	-14.22	-16.70
Third Quartile																				
Population	2022	2031	2074	2135	2082	1968	1873	1826	1779	1759	1712	1733	1635	1578	1494	1378	1321	1232	1128	1106
High School Graduates	1618	1684	1699	1788	1788	1707	1598	1559	1504	1454	1460	1469	1397	1347	1261	1219	1154	1083	956	951
Graduation Rate(%)	80.03	82.93	81.92	83.77	85.88	86.76	85.30	85.35	84.53	82.63	85.28	84.80	85.93	85.38	84.44	88.46	87.37	87.85	84.75	86.01
Difference From Top Quartile	-6.51	-6.22	-6.26	-4.17	-3.84	-3.65	-3.98	-6.62	-6.08	-6.88	-4.66	-3.35	-3.57	-6.73	-6.00	-2.86	-3.99	-3.01	-6.75	-7.68
Top Quartile																				
Population	1870	1889	1927	2033	1993	1888	1789	1695	1660	1624	1624	1667	1561	1462	1395	1335	1263	1192	1044	1015
High School Graduates	1618	1684	1699	1788	1788	1707	1598	1559	1504	1454	1460	1469	1397	1347	1261	1219	1154	1083	956	951
Graduation Rate(%)	86.54	89.15	88.18	87.94	89.72	90.41	89.28	91.97	90.61	89.51	89.94	88.15	89.50	92.11	90.44	91.32	91.36	90.86	91.50	93.69

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 11
Male High School Graduation Rates for Married
Age 18 to 24 By Family Income
1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	**1970**	**1971**	**1972**	**1973**	**1974**	**1975**	**1976**	**1977**	**1978**	**1979**	**1980**	**1981**	**1982**	**1983**	**1984**	**1985**	**1986**	**1987**	**1988**	**1989**
Population	3183	3292	3331	3513	3439	3248	3016	3017	2902	2828	2812	2780	2635	2477	2303	2162	2138	2023	1662	1664
High School Graduates	2391	2545	2549	2745	2738	2597	2338	2331	2248	2205	2161	2128	2027	1844	1744	1660	1641	1549	1244	1265
Graduation Rate(%)	75.12	77.31	76.52	78.14	79.62	79.96	77.52	77.26	77.46	77.97	76.85	76.55	76.93	74.44	75.73	76.78	76.75	76.57	74.85	76.02
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
Population	1018	1057	1111	1134	1089	1050	991	986	939	939	947	872	898	843	778	735	724	701	555	575
High School Graduates	667	706	750	766	747	734	650	626	601	631	590	585	568	490	477	464	458	447	345	353
Graduation Rate(%)	65.55	66.77	67.51	67.54	68.63	69.91	65.58	63.50	63.95	67.19	62.28	67.02	63.24	58.16	61.36	63.13	63.30	63.87	62.06	61.45
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-19.37	-21.55	-26.90	-20.16	-21.41	-19.80	-24.44	-26.80	-25.99	-21.81	-23.81	-17.89	-26.58	-31.65	-31.08	-26.75	-25.58	-23.22	-25.31	-30.97
Second Quartile																				
Population	830	875	1288	918	890	859	800	791	753	701	694	729	647	636	590	549	550	514	426	407
High School Graduates	618	662	645	717	697	668	606	610	591	550	566	546	504	484	454	426	418	404	320	303
Graduation Rate(%)	74.42	75.60	81.79	78.18	78.26	77.83	75.71	77.09	78.52	78.53	81.66	74.99	77.88	76.18	77.00	77.49	76.12	78.55	75.11	74.48
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-10.50	-12.72	-12.62	-9.52	-11.78	-11.88	-14.31	-13.21	-11.42	-10.47	-4.43	-9.92	-11.94	-13.63	-15.44	-12.39	-12.76	-8.54	-12.26	-17.94
Third Quartile																				
Population	725	739	1225	778	761	692	641	686	663	625	642	626	589	560	491	458	479	445	360	362
High School Graduates	588	630	593	662	665	615	557	595	564	522	549	527	505	476	402	393	422	381	299	315
Graduation Rate(%)	81.11	85.17	90.29	85.13	87.34	88.71	86.84	86.81	85.12	83.58	85.52	84.24	85.77	84.93	81.84	85.81	88.07	85.71	83.11	86.43
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-3.81	-3.15	-4.12	-2.57	-2.70	-1.00	-3.18	-3.49	-4.82	-5.42	-0.57	-0.67	-4.05	-4.88	-10.60	-4.07	-0.81	-1.38	-4.26	-5.99
Top Quartile																				
Population	610	620	1206	683	699	647	584	552	547	564	529	553	502	437	444	420	385	364	321	318
High School Graduates	518	548	561	599	629	580	526	498	492	502	456	470	450	393	411	377	342	317	281	294
Graduation Rate(%)	84.92	88.32	94.41	87.70	90.04	89.71	90.02	90.30	89.94	89.00	86.09	84.91	89.82	89.81	92.44	89.88	88.88	87.09	87.37	92.42

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 13
Female High School Graduation Rates for Married Age 18 to 24 By Family Income 1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Population	5407	5494	5507	5654	5627	5396	5276	5018	4829	4698	4617	4690	4594	4482	4181	4002	3714	3494	3342	3246
High School Graduates	4081	4191	4247	4408	4415	4231	4162	3902	3767	3610	3680	3749	3560	3544	3301	3217	2975	2782	2670	2539
Graduation Rate(%)	75.48	76.28	77.12	77.96	78.46	78.41	78.89	77.76	78.01	76.84	79.71	79.94	77.49	79.07	78.95	80.38	80.10	79.62	79.89	78.22
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
Population	1477	1513	1439	1519	1556	1491	1489	1463	1400	1313	1345	1309	1344	1337	1187	1184	1083	1025	939	838
High School Graduates	951	978	949	1022	1041	973	948	931	903	823	870	885	829	857	784	755	696	635	611	534
Graduation Rate(%)	64.39	64.63	65.97	67.28	66.89	65.28	63.66	63.64	64.52	62.67	64.71	67.56	61.68	64.10	66.06	63.81	64.24	61.94	65.03	63.70
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-22.93	-24.92	-21.68	-20.78	-22.60	-25.50	-25.27	29.14	-26.42	-27.11	-27.09	-22.20	-27.68	-28.99	-23.44	-28.01	-28.20	-30.58	-28.31	-30.57
Second Quartile																				
Population	1373	1420	1408	1478	1455	1389	1350	1273	1200	1190	1107	1160	1155	1103	1041	983	911	880	811	827
High School Graduates	1000	1022	1054	1071	1092	1039	992	949	912	904	894	923	893	862	807	794	736	679	636	647
Graduation Rate(%)	72.81	71.98	74.85	75.00	75.01	74.77	73.44	74.56	76.02	75.94	80.72	79.53	77.35	78.14	77.51	80.76	80.72	77.21	78.42	78.22
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-14.51	-17.57	-12.80	-13.06	-14.48	-16.01	-15.49	-18.22	-14.92	-13.84	-11.08	-10.23	-12.01	-14.95	-11.99	-11.21	-11.72	-15.31	-14.92	-16.05
Third Quartile																				
Population	1294	1291	1362	1357	1321	1275	1232	1140	1116	1134	1070	1107	1037	1017	1003	920	842	761	768	742
High School Graduates	1030	1054	1107	1126	1123	1093	1041	963	940	931	911	942	892	871	860	826	732	702	657	637
Graduation Rate(%)	79.42	81.64	81.20	83.00	85.04	85.70	84.50	84.49	84.16	82.10	85.14	85.12	86.02	85.63	85.71	89.79	86.97	92.22	85.53	85.81
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-7.90	-7.91	-6.45	-5.06	-4.45	-5.08	-4.43	-8.29	-6.78	-7.68	-6.66	-4.64	-3.34	-7.46	-3.79	-2.18	-5.47	-0.30	-7.81	-8.46
Top Quartile																				
Population	1260	1269	1298	1350	1294	1241	1205	1143	1112	1060	1094	1114	1059	1025	950	915	878	828	723	697
High School Graduates	1100	1136	1138	1188	1159	1127	1072	1060	1012	952	1004	1000	946	954	850	842	812	766	675	657
Graduation Rate(%)	87.32	89.55	87.65	88.06	89.49	90.78	88.93	92.78	90.94	89.78	91.80	89.76	89.36	93.09	89.50	91.97	92.44	92.52	93.34	94.27

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 13
White High School Graduation for Married
Age 18 to 24 By Family Income
1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Population	7755	7987	7992	8261	8150	7767	7585	7336	7105	6962	6838	6864	6653	6301	5841	5453	5257	4940	4408	4385
High School Graduates	5958	6182	6212	6518	6488	6205	5904	5713	5552	5316	5378	5412	5048	4861	4544	4323	4115	3854	3411	3401
Graduation Rate(%)	76.83	77.40	77.73	78.90	78.80	79.89	77.84	77.88	78.10	77.47	78.66	78.90	77.27	77.83	77.79	79.28	78.28	77.87	77.38	77.56
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
Population	2130	2246	2211	2280	2294	2280	2200	2090	2045	1940	2001	1933	1821	1837	1703	1638	1549	1380	1310	1344
High School Graduates	1441	1510	1486	1568	1584	1560	1423	1317	1312	1242	1275	1296	1166	1133	1066	1017	959	914	815	838
Graduation Rate(%)	67.65	67.29	67.23	68.79	69.10	68.19	65.28	63.74	64.29	64.01	63.74	67.07	60.69	61.66	62.61	62.40	61.86	66.82	62.22	62.38
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-19.62	-21.05	-21.47	-19.72	-21.80	-22.62	-24.43	-28.57	-26.22	-25.47	-26.89	-21.06	-28.90	-31.53	-28.04	-28.88	-29.14	-29.97	-30.16	-31.59
Second Quartile																				
Population	2025	2108	2070	2109	2119	1980	1958	1908	1801	1767	1681	1740	1625	1602	1474	1348	1304	1221	1108	1089
High School Graduates	1502	1546	1561	1620	1623	1511	1458	1440	1390	1363	1366	1373	1371	1241	1126	1080	1006	958	844	820
Graduation Rate(%)	74.15	73.44	75.11	76.83	76.60	76.29	74.48	75.44	77.18	77.11	81.26	78.88	77.73	77.48	76.41	80.12	77.05	78.27	76.15	75.30
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-13.12	-15.61	-13.59	-11.68	-13.26	-14.52	-15.33	-16.87	-13.24	-12.37	-8.37	-9.24	-11.06	-15.13	-14.25	-11.25	-13.44	-12.62	-16.17	-18.44
Third Quartile																				
Population	1861	1889	1901	1976	1914	1830	1749	1730	1673	1630	1500	1621	1507	1479	1365	1298	1246	1121	1031	1000
High School Graduates	1496	1571	1567	1669	1652	1590	1500	1481	1422	1356	1264	1370	1296	1268	1173	1118	1086	987	887	858
Graduation Rate(%)	80.49	83.16	82.41	84.81	86.33	87.26	85.77	85.63	84.87	82.60	84.27	84.47	85.91	85.63	85.90	86.37	87.30	87.29	84.66	85.82
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-6.78	-5.89	-6.29	-4.50	-3.53	-3.45	-4.04	-6.68	-5.75	-6.79	-4.76	-3.65	-3.88	-6.95	-4.07	-3.00	-3.89	-3.60	-8.34	-8.81
Top Quartile																				
Population	1739	1747	1801	1887	1833	1757	1678	1598	1580	1516	1540	1560	1460	1273	1300	1222	1168	1098	950	920
High School Graduates	1518	1556	1598	1670	1647	1595	1507	1475	1428	1356	1380	1375	1316	1273	1178	1116	1064	998	886	882
Graduation Rate(%)	87.27	89.05	88.70	88.51	89.86	90.81	89.81	92.31	90.42	89.40	89.63	88.12	89.50	92.58	90.66	91.37	91.09	90.89	92.22	94.02

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 14
Black High School Graduation for Married
Age 18 to 24 By Family Income
1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Population	751	726	784	821	778	741	610	602	539	531	486	479	546	397	432	532	429	411	386	354
High School Graduates	451	489	541	567	569	529	421	454	396	397	372	376	436	315	370	431	373	367	333	318
Graduation Rate(%)	60.05	67.36	69.01	69.06	73.14	71.39	69.02	75.42	73.47	74.76	76.54	78.50	79.85	79.35	85.65	81.02	86.95	89.29	86.27	89.83
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
Population	331	307	316	325	301	304	253	316	255	253	234	207	257	173	173	224	200	168	143	124
High School Graduates	156	156	200	186	185	184	148	222	160	176	149	156	193	126	138	158	158	136	114	98
Graduation Rate(%)	47.25	50.86	63.13	57.36	61.36	60.59	58.22	70.22	62.94	69.42	63.39	75.47	74.99	72.54	79.88	70.71	79.19	80.89	77.33	78.71
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-28.01	-38.50	-17.51	-23.11	-25.57	-27.28	-24.02	-11.85	-33.22	-20.27	-32.20	-13.36	-15.90	-18.59	-6.81	-20.91	-18.58	-14.55	-12.42	-21.29
Second Quartile																				
Population	165	179	193	213	188	224	171	132	131	96	93	115	123	104	121	130	131	106	106	108
High School Graduates	105	131	127	153	142	168	127	105	100	69	73	80	96	84	107	110	120	97	94	101
Graduation Rate(%)	63.27	73.13	65.53	71.79	75.49	75.00	74.01	79.52	76.02	71.15	78.49	69.12	78.39	80.52	88.56	84.62	91.67	91.95	88.20	92.89
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-11.99	-16.23	-15.11	-8.68	-11.44	-12.87	-8.23	-2.55	-20.14	-18.54	-17.10	-19.71	-12.50	-10.61	+1.86	-7.00	-6.10	-3.49	-1.55	-7.11
Third Quartile																				
Population	142	139	166	148	145	115	110	79	89	104	96	86	96	72	76	90	45	71	77	84
High School Graduates	105	102	127	119	117	90	84	65	74	84	91	77	83	61	71	82	43	71	75	81
Graduation Rate(%)	73.98	79.51	76.64	80.38	80.80	78.72	77.03	83.07	83.52	80.27	94.35	89.75	86.70	85.85	93.29	91.13	94.85	99.51	97.48	96.34
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-1.28	-9.85	-4.00	-0.09	-6.13	-9.15	-5.21	+1.00	-12.64	-9.42	-1.24	+0.92	-4.19	-5.28	+6.60	-0.49	-2.92	+4.07	+7.73	-3.66
Top Quartile																				
Population	113	112	108	135	144	99	76	75	64	76	62	72	70	50	62	67	53	66	59	37
High School Graduates	85	100	87	109	125	87	62	61	62	68	60	64	64	45	54	61	52	63	53	37
Graduation Rate(%)	75.26	89.36	80.64	80.47	86.93	87.87	82.24	82.07	96.16	89.69	95.59	88.83	90.89	91.13	86.69	91.62	97.77	95.44	89.75	100.00

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 15
Other Race High School Graduation for Married
Age 18 to 24 By Family Income
1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Population	84	73	62	95	129	136	97	98	87	133	123	137	150	171	211	179	166	157	110	130
High School Graduates	63	65	43	68	98	94	65	67	66	102	91	88	103	112	131	123	128	110	79	85
Participation Rate(%)	75.00	89.04	69.35	71.58	75.97	69.12	67.01	68.37	75.86	76.69	73.98	64.23	68.67	65.50	62.09	68.72	77.11	70.06	71.82	65.38
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
Population	33	18	23	48	50	36	26	36	39	59	57	42	64	72	89	67	59	58	42	45
High School Graduates	21	18	13	34	39	23	12	20	31	36	36	17	38	39	57	44	37	33	27	17
Participation Rate(%)	63.64	100.00	56.52	70.83	78.00	63.89	46.15	55.56	79.49	61.02	63.16	40.48	59.38	54.17	64.04	65.67	62.79	56.90	64.29	37.78
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-19.69	+6.67	-21.26	-10.99	-16.12	-14.24	-36.71	-44.44	-8.01	-29.89	-27.25	-45.23	-17.89	-22.75	-23.84	-22.79	-27.69	-21.67	-1.09	-42.22
Second Quartile																				
Population	14	12	16	23	38	44	21	23	21	25	27	34	43	32	36	54	36	39	23	29
High School Graduates	11	7	11	15	23	28	13	14	14	22	21	16	30	22	28	29	29	30	18	20
Participation Rate(%)	78.57	58.33	68.75	65.22	60.53	63.64	61.90	60.87	66.67	88.00	77.78	47.06	69.77	68.75	77.78	53.70	80.56	76.92	78.26	68.97
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-4.76	-35.00	-9.03	-16.60	-33.59	-14.49	-20.96	-39.13	-20.83	-2.91	-13.13	-38.65	-7.50	-8.17	-10.51	-34.76	-9.92	-1.65	+12.88	-11.23
Third Quartile																				
Population	19	13	7	11	23	23	14	17	17	16	18	26	22	27	53	32	30	30	20	17
High School Graduates	15	11	5	9	19	18	14	13	8	14	13	22	19	20	17	27	25	25	14	15
Participation Rate(%)	78.95	84.62	71.43	81.82	82.61	78.26	100.00	76.47	47.06	87.50	72.22	84.62	86.36	74.07	32.08	84.38	83.33	83.33	70.00	88.24
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-4.38	-8.71	-6.35	0.00	-11.51	+0.13	+17.14	-23.53	-40.44	-3.41	-18.69	-1.09	+9.09	-2.85	-55.80	-4.08	-7.15	+4.76	+4.12	+8.24
Top Quartile																				
Population	18	30	18	11	17	32	35	22	16	33	22	35	22	39	33	26	42	28	26	40
High School Graduates	15	28	14	9	16	25	29	22	14	30	20	30	17	30	29	23	38	22	17	32
Participation Rate(%)	83.33	93.33	77.78	81.82	94.12	78.13	82.86	100.00	87.50	90.91	90.91	85.71	77.27	76.92	87.88	88.46	90.48	78.57	65.38	80.00

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 36
Hispanic High School Graduation Rates for Married Age 18 to 24 By Family Income 1972 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Population	532	515	553	482	551	574	606	576	559	629	644	611	563	580	673	657	686	761
High School Graduates	265	260	307	248	262	290	316	286	259	328	319	284	282	350	349	375	324	360
Graduation Rate(%)	49.81	50.49	55.52	51.45	47.55	50.52	52.15	49.65	46.33	52.15	49.53	46.48	50.09	60.34	51.86	57.08	47.23	47.31
Family Income Quartiles																		
Bottom Quartile																		
Population	229	259	253	193	246	247	267	284	265	245	289	281	254	263	315	331	314	361
High School Graduates	84	106	122	77	90	92	103	122	85	88	106	84	98	124	110	143	119	149
Graduation Rate(%)	36.70	41.05	48.24	39.81	36.80	37.16	38.53	42.91	32.00	35.89	36.55	29.76	38.68	47.09	34.85	43.33	38.00	41.25
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-34.58	-23.44	-22.91	-25.37	-40.55	-45.43	-44.59	-33.95	-25.56	-29.15	-41.24	-51.22	-43.89	-33.23	-35.44	-35.93	-19.43	-34.42
Second Quartile																		
Population	146	121	168	129	177	152	176	141	111	152	155	133	145	134	147	134	176	117
High School Graduates	79	69	91	60	78	69	97	66	66	82	74	59	71	91	82	88	87	76
Graduation Rate(%)	54.06	57.60	54.21	46.77	44.09	45.80	54.91	46.73	59.68	53.70	47.79	44.80	48.81	67.66	55.81	65.14	49.67	64.95
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-17.22	-6.89	-16.94	-18.41	-33.26	-36.79	-28.21	-30.13	+2.12	-11.34	-30.00	-36.18	-33.76	-12.66	-14.48	-14.12	-7.76	-10.72
Third Quartile																		
Population	92	85	73	97	79	91	108	79	98	133	108	97	80	94	117	95	108	213
High School Graduates	55	52	52	70	56	59	70	43	59	94	73	59	44	64	91	67	67	83
Graduation Rate(%)	60.32	60.73	70.87	72.13	70.08	64.79	65.41	54.75	60.27	70.79	67.97	61.36	54.74	68.28	77.83	70.42	61.74	38.69
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-10.96	-3.76	-0.28	+6.95	-7.27	-17.80	-17.71	-22.11	+2.71	+5.75	-9.82	-19.62	-27.83	-12.04	+7.54	-8.84	+4.31	-36.98
Top Quartile																		
Population	66	51	60	63	49	85	56	71	85	98	82	101	84	88	94	97	88	69
High School Graduates	47	33	43	41	38	70	46	54	49	64	64	82	69	71	66	77	51	52
Graduation Rate(%)	71.28	64.49	71.15	65.18	77.35	82.59	83.12	76.86	57.56	65.04	77.79	80.98	82.57	80.32	70.29	79.26	57.43	75.67

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 17
Distribution of Married Age 18 to 24 High School Graduates
By Gender, Race/Ethnicity, and Family Income
1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Family Income Quartiles	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
High School Graduates	6472	6736	6796	7153	7153	6828	6390	6234	6015	5815	5841	5877	5587	5388	5045	4877	4616	4331	3823	3804
Gender																				
Male HSG	2391	2545	2549	2745	2738	2597	2338	2331	2248	2205	2161	2128	2027	1844	1744	1660	1641	1549	1244	1265
Male Share(%)	36.94	37.78	37.51	38.38	38.28	38.03	36.59	37.39	37.37	37.92	37.00	36.21	36.28	34.22	34.57	34.04	35.55	35.77	32.54	33.25
Female HSG	4081	4191	4247	4408	4415	4231	4052	3903	3767	3610	3680	3749	3560	3544	3301	3217	2975	2782	2579	2539
Female Share(%)	63.06	62.22	62.49	61.62	61.72	61.97	63.41	62.61	62.63	62.08	63.00	63.79	63.72	65.78	65.43	65.96	64.45	64.23	67.46	66.75
Race																				
White HSG	5958	6182	6212	6518	6486	6205	5904	5713	5553	5316	5378	5413	5048	4961	4544	4323	4115	3854	3411	3401
White Share(%)	92.06	91.78	91.41	91.12	90.68	90.88	92.39	91.64	92.32	91.42	92.07	92.10	90.35	92.07	90.07	88.64	89.15	88.99	89.22	89.41
Black HSG	451	489	541	567	569	529	421	454	396	397	372	376	436	315	370	431	373	367	333	318
Black Share(%)	6.97	7.26	7.96	7.93	7.95	7.75	6.59	7.28	6.58	6.83	6.37	6.40	7.80	5.85	7.33	8.84	8.08	8.47	8.71	8.36
Other Race HSG	63	65	43	68	98	94	65	67	66	102	91	88	103	112	131	123	128	110	79	85
Other Share(%)	0.97	0.96	0.63	0.95	1.37	1.38	1.02	1.07	1.10	1.75	1.56	1.50	1.84	2.08	2.60	2.52	2.77	2.54	2.07	2.23
Ethnicity																				
Hispanic HSG			265	260	307	248	262	290	316	286	259	328	319	284	282	350	349	375	324	360
Hispanic Share(%)			3.90	3.63	4.29	3.63	4.10	4.65	5.25	4.92	4.43	5.58	5.71	5.27	5.59	7.18	7.56	8.66	8.48	9.46
Bottom Quartile																				
High School Graduates	1618	1684	1699	1788	1788	1707	1598	1559	1504	1454	1460	1469	1397	1347	1261	1219	1154	1083	956	951
Gender																				
Male HSG	667	706	750	766	747	734	650	628	601	631	590	585	568	490	477	464	458	447	345	353
Male Share(%)	41.22	41.92	44.13	42.84	41.78	43.00	40.68	40.28	39.96	43.40	40.41	39.82	40.66	36.38	37.83	38.06	39.69	41.27	36.09	37.12
Female HSG	951	978	949	1022	1041	973	948	931	903	823	870	885	829	857	784	755	696	636	611	598
Female Share(%)	58.78	58.08	55.86	57.16	58.22	57.00	59.32	59.72	60.04	56.60	59.59	60.25	59.34	63.62	62.17	61.94	60.31	58.73	63.91	62.88
Race																				
White HSG	1441	1510	1486	1568	1564	1500	1438	1317	1313	1242	1275	1296	1166	1183	1066	1017	959	914	815	835
White Share(%)	89.06	89.67	87.46	87.70	87.47	87.87	89.99	84.48	87.30	85.42	87.33	88.22	83.46	87.82	84.54	83.43	83.10	84.40	85.25	87.80

Family Income Quartiles	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Black HSG	156	156	200	186	185	184	148	222	160	176	149	156	193	125	138	158	158	136	111	99
Black Share(%)	9.64	9.26	11.77	10.40	10.35	10.78	9.26	14.24	10.64	12.10	10.21	10.62	13.82	9.28	10.94	12.96	13.69	12.56	11.61	10.41
Other Race HSG	21	18	13	34	38	23	12	20	31	36	36	18	38	39	57	44	37	32	30	17
Other Share(%)	1.30	1.07	0.77	1.90	2.10	1.35	0.75	1.28	2.06	2.48	2.47	1.23	2.72	2.90	4.52	3.61	3.21	2.95	3.12	1.79
Ethnicity																				
Hispanic HSG			84	106	122	77	90	92	103	122	85	88	108	84	98	124	110	143	119	149
Hispanic Share(%)			4.94	5.93	6.82	4.51	5.63	5.90	6.85	8.39	5.82	5.99	7.73	6.24	7.77	10.17	9.53	13.20	12.45	15.66
Second Quartile																				
High School Graduates	1618	1684	1699	1788	1788	1707	1598	1559	1504	1454	1460	1469	1397	1347	1261	1219	1154	1083	956	951
Gender																				
Male HSG	618	662	645	717	697	668	606	610	591	550	566	546	504	484	454	428	418	404	320	303
Male Share(%)	38.20	39.31	37.96	40.10	38.98	39.13	37.92	39.13	39.30	37.83	38.77	37.17	36.08	35.93	36.00	34.95	36.22	37.30	33.47	31.86
Female HSG	1000	1022	1054	1071	1092	1039	992	949	912	904	594	923	893	862	807	794	736	679	636	647
Female Share(%)	61.80	60.69	62.04	59.90	61.07	60.87	62.08	60.87	60.64	62.17	61.23	62.83	63.92	63.99	64.00	65.14	63.78	62.70	66.53	68.03
Race																				
White HSG	1502	1546	1561	1620	1623	1511	1458	1440	1390	1363	1366	1373	1271	1241	1126	1080	1005	956	844	830
White Share(%)	92.83	91.81	91.88	90.60	90.77	88.52	91.24	92.37	92.42	93.74	93.56	93.46	90.98	92.13	89.29	88.60	87.09	88.27	88.28	87.28
Black HSG	105	131	127	153	142	168	127	105	100	69	73	80	96	84	107	110	120	97	94	101
Black Share(%)	6.49	7.78	7.47	8.56	7.94	9.84	7.95	6.74	6.65	4.75	5.00	5.45	6.87	6.24	8.47	9.02	10.40	8.96	9.83	10.62
Other Race HSG	11	7	11	15	24	28	13	14	13	22	21	16	30	21	28	30	29	30	18	20
Other Share(%)	0.68	0.42	0.65	0.84	1.34	1.64	0.81	0.89	0.86	1.51	1.44	1.09	2.15	1.56	2.22	2.46	2.51	2.77	1.88	340
Ethnicity																				
Hispanic HSG			79	69	91	60	78	69	97	66	66	82	74	59	71	91	82	88	87	76
Hispanic Share(%)			4.65	3.86	5.09	3.51	4.88	4.43	6.45	4.54	4.52	5.58	5.30	4.38	5.63	7.47	7.11	8.13	9.10	7.99
Third Quartile																				
High School Graduates	1618	1684	1699	1788	1788	1707	1598	1559	1504	1454	1460	1469	1397	1347	1261	1219	1154	1083	956	951
Gender																				
Male HSG	588	630	593	662	665	615	557	595	564	522	549	527	505	476	402	393	422	381	299	315
Male Share(%)	36.34	37.41	34.90	37.02	37.12	36.03	34.86	38.17	37.50	35.90	37.60	35.87	36.15	35.34	31.88	32.24	36.57	35.18	31.28	33.12

Family Income Quartiles	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Female HSG	1030	1054	1106	1126	1123	1083	1041	963	940	931	911	942	892	871	860	826	732	702	657	637
Female Share(%)	63.66	62.80	65.10	63.96	62.81	64.03	65.14	61.77	63.50	64.03	62.40	64.13	63.85	64.66	68.20	67.76	63.43	64.82	68.72	66.96
Race																				
White HSG	1498	1571	1567	1660	1652	1599	1500	1481	1422	1366	1356	1370	1295	1266	1173	1110	1086	987	887	855
White Share(%)	92.58	93.29	92.23	92.84	92.39	93.67	93.87	95.00	94.55	93.36	92.88	93.26	92.70	93.99	93.02	91.06	94.11	91.14	90.69	89.91
Black HSG	105	102	127	119	117	90	84	65	74	84	91	77	83	61	71	82	43	71	75	81
Black Share(%)	6.49	6.57	7.47	6.66	6.54	5.27	5.26	4.17	4.92	5.76	6.23	5.24	5.94	4.53	5.63	6.73	3.73	6.56	7.85	8.52
Other Race HSG	15	11	5	9	19	19	14	12	8	13	13	22	19	20	18	27	25	25	14	15
Other Share(%)	0.93	0.66	0.29	0.50	1.06	1.11	0.88	0.77	0.53	0.89	0.89	1.50	1.36	1.48	1.43	2.21	2.17	2.31	1.46	1.58
Ethnicity																				
Hispanic HSG			55	52	52	70	56	59	70	43	59	94	73	59	44	64	91	67	67	83
Hispanic Share(%)			3.24	2.91	2.91	4.10	3.50	3.78	4.65	2.96	4.04	6.40	5.23	4.36	3.49	5.35	7.89	6.19	7.01	8.73
Top Quartile																				
High School Graduates	1618	1684	1699	1788	1788	1707	1598	1559	1504	1464	1460	1469	1397	1347	1261	1219	1154	1083	956	951
Gender																				
Male HSG	518	548	561	599	629	580	526	498	492	502	456	470	450	393	411	377	342	317	281	294
Male Share(%)	32.01	32.54	33.02	33.50	35.18	33.98	32.92	31.94	32.71	34.53	31.23	31.99	32.21	29.18	32.59	30.93	29.64	29.27	29.39	30.91
Female HSG	1100	1136	1138	1189	1159	1127	1072	1060	1012	962	1004	1000	946	954	850	842	812	766	675	657
Female Share(%)	67.99	67.46	66.98	66.50	64.82	66.02	67.08	67.99	67.29	65.47	68.77	68.07	67.72	70.82	67.41	69.07	70.36	70.73	70.61	69.09
Race																				
White HSG	1518	1556	1598	1670	1647	1595	1507	1475	1428	1366	1380	1375	1316	1272	1178	1116	1064	997	886	882
White Share(%)	93.82	92.40	94.06	93.40	92.11	93.44	94.31	94.61	94.95	93.26	94.52	93.60	94.20	94.43	93.42	91.55	92.20	92.06	92.68	92.74
Black HSG	85	100	87	109	125	87	62	61	62	68	60	64	64	45	54	80	52	63	53	37
Black Share(%)	5.25	5.94	5.12	6.10	6.99	5.10	3.88	3.91	4.12	4.65	4.11	4.36	4.58	3.34	4.28	6.56	4.51	5.82	5.54	3.89
Other Race HSG	15	28	14	9	16	25	29	22	14	30	20	31	16	30	29	23	38	23	17	32
Other Share(%)	0.93	1.66	0.82	0.50	0.90	1.46	1.81	1.41	0.93	2.06	1.37	2.11	1.15	2.23	1.59	1.89	3.29	2.12	1.78	3.36
Ethnicity																				
Hispanic HSG			47	33	43	41	38	70	46	54	49	64	64	82	69	71	66	77	51	52
Hispanic Share(%)			2.77	1.85	2.40	2.40	2.38	4.49	3.06	3.71	3.36	4.36	4.58	6.09	5.47	5.82	5.72	7.11	5.33	5.47

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 18
Family Income Quartiles for Unmarried High School Graduates Age 18 to 24
1970 to 1989

	Bottom	Second	Third
1989	$20,017	$35,447	$58,125
1988	19,667	34,904	55,871
1987	17,451	32,397	51,332
1986	16,954	31,316	48,112
1985	16,967	30,978	46,755
1984	15,991	28,525	42,959*
1983	15,086	27,215	40,904*
1982	14,857	26,773	40,160*
1981	13,921	23,820	35,659*
1980	13,214	22,415	33,466*
1979	12,679	21,270	31,692*
1978	11,477	19,271	28,656*
1977	10,614	17,411	25,821*
1976	9,972	16,083	23,793
1975	9,553	14,952	22,152
1974	9,044	14,209	21,191
1973	8,531	13,209	19,700*
1972	7,721	12,258	18,281*
1971	7,356	11,461	17,093*
1970	7,157	10,875	16,219*

*Estimated

TABLE 19
College Participation Rates for Unmarried High School Graduates
Age 18 to 24 By Family Income
1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	**1970**	**1971**	**1972**	**1973**	**1974**	**1975**	**1976**	**1977**	**1978**	**1979**	**1980**	**1981**	**1982**	**1983**	**1984**	**1985**	**1986**	**1987**	**1988**	**1989**
High School Graduates	8500	9024	9476	9420	9452	10060	10604	10676	10856	11044	11840	12564	12892	13084	12784	12680	12456	12136	12084	11420
College Participants	5207	5470	5676	5494	5447	6000	6436	6306	6236	6221	6731	7276	7384	7538	7414	7472	7431	7483	7556	7044
Participation Rate(%)	61.26	60.62	59.90	58.32	57.63	59.64	60.69	59.07	57.44	56.33	56.85	57.91	57.28	57.61	57.99	58.93	59.66	61.66	62.53	61.68
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
High School Graduates	2125	2256	2369	2355	2363	2515	2651	2669	2714	2761	2960	3141	3223	3271	3196	3170	3114	3034	3021	2855
College Participants	974	1058	1077	1026	1038	1173	1183	1227	1223	1230	1246	1351	1356	1359	1264	1292	1309	1309	1337	1273
Participation Rate(%)	45.84	46.88	45.47	43.57	43.93	46.64	44.61	45.96	45.07	44.56	42.11	43.02	40.09	41.56	39.56	40.76	42.03	43.15	44.25	44.60
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-33.17	-29.68	-28.11	-28.07	-30.13	-28.52	-31.71	-30.44	-25.79	-22.74	-26.52	-25.58	-32.36	-32.20	-32.84	-34.83	-35.27	-35.91	-35.18	-33.64
Second Quartile																				
High School Graduates	2125	2256	2369	2355	2363	2515	2651	2669	2714	2761	2960	3141	3223	3271	3196	3170	3114	3034	3021	2855
College Participants	1194	1276	1329	1263	1239	1351	1494	1429	1408	1447	1578	1670	1691	1712	1728	1672	1692	1764	1732	1610
Participation Rate(%)	56.18	56.56	56.09	53.64	52.45	53.72	56.37	53.57	51.90	52.42	53.33	53.17	52.45	52.34	54.05	52.76	54.34	58.15	57.33	56.40
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-22.83	-20.00	-17.49	-18.00	-21.61	-21.44	-19.95	-22.83	-18.96	-14.88	-15.30	-15.43	-20.00	-21.42	-18.35	-22.83	-22.96	-20.91	-22.10	-21.84
Third Quartile																				
High School Graduates	2125	2256	2369	2355	2363	2515	2651	2669	2714	2761	2960	3141	3223	3271	3196	3170	3114	3034	3021	2855
College Participants	1360	1409	1526	1518	1420	1586	1736	1611	1682	1686	1876	2101	2002	2054	2108	2112	2023	2012	2088	1926
Participation Rate(%)	64.01	62.43	64.43	64.46	60.07	63.05	65.50	60.38	61.99	61.07	63.39	66.88	62.12	62.80	65.96	66.63	64.97	66.31	69.11	67.48
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-15.00	-14.13	-9.15	-7.18	-13.99	-12.11	-10.82	-16.02	-8.87	-6.23	-5.24	-1.72	-10.33	-10.96	-6.44	-8.96	-12.33	-12.75	-10.32	-10.76
Top Quartile																				
High School Graduates	2125	2256	2369	2355	2363	2515	2651	2669	2714	2761	2960	3141	3223	3271	3196	3170	3114	3034	3021	2855
College Participants	1679	1727	1743	1687	1750	1890	2023	2039	1923	1858	2031	2155	2335	2413	2314	2396	2407	2399	2400	2234
Participation Rate(%)	79.01	76.56	73.58	71.64	74.06	75.16	76.32	76.40	70.86	67.30	68.63	68.60	72.45	73.76	72.40	75.59	77.30	79.06	79.43	78.24

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 29
Male College Participation Rates for Unmarried High School Graduates
Age 18 to 24 By Family Income
1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
High School Graduates	4395	4698	4966	5050	5021	5342	5553	5568	5654	5614	6083	6443	6664	6739	6058	6581	6405	6194	6141	5867
College Participants	2879	3030	3126	3046	2942	3195	3311	3263	3212	3085	3341	3629	3766	3721	3833	3755	3666	[illegible]	3664	3466
Participation Rate(%)	65.51	64.50	62.95	60.32	58.59	59.81	59.63	58.60	56.81	54.95	54.92	56.32	56.60	55.22	57.41	57.06	57.27	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
High School Graduates	1019	1035	1108	1127	1112	1148	1189	1200	1209	1205	1315	1375	1462	1462	1411	1431	1386	1336	1334	1369
College Participants	506	522	563	535	522	550	540	553	570	537	523	573	611	617	589	571	526	547	570	573
Participation Rate(%)	49.63	50.45	50.86	47.45	46.93	47.91	45.40	46.07	47.12	44.55	39.81	41.66	41.82	42.19	41.27	39.87	37.93	40.96	42.73	41.86
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-33.50	-28.17	-24.48	-24.13	-28.00	-25.69	-27.73	-29.75	-21.73	-19.26	-25.24	-24.03	-28.47	-27.58	-29.63	-33.95	-36.42	-35.00	-32.48	-30.54
Second Quartile																				
High School Graduates	1098	1193	1288	1267	1293	1370	1412	1383	1444	1307	1550	1627	1688	1736	1731	1700	1657	1569	1615	1494
College Participants	667	716	748	699	663	730	765	693	712	710	798	824	824	805	859	819	841	862	869	765
Participation Rate(%)	60.79	59.99	58.05	55.16	51.30	53.28	54.20	50.07	49.33	50.83	51.47	50.65	48.79	46.63	49.64	47.93	50.75	54.96	53.70	51.22
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-22.34	-18.63	-17.29	-16.42	-23.63	-20.32	-18.93	-25.75	-19.52	-12.98	-13.58	-15.04	-21.50	-23.14	-21.26	-25.89	-23.60	-21.00	-21.43	-23.18
Third Quartile																				
High School Graduates	1126	1235	1284	1320	1302	1404	1457	1461	1499	1469	1600	1717	1738	1794	1748	1685	1652	1611	1615	1535
College Participants	748	822	846	856	772	870	912	861	895	853	968	1099	1022	1074	1119	1069	1030	1027	1061	990
Participation Rate(%)	66.42	66.51	65.88	64.83	59.31	61.96	62.63	58.90	59.71	58.07	60.48	64.04	58.79	59.84	64.08	63.44	62.32	63.76	65.67	64.30
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-16.71	-12.11	-9.46	-6.75	-15.62	-11.64	-10.50	-16.94	-9.14	-5.74	-4.57	-1.65	-11.50	-9.93	-6.82	-10.38	-12.03	-12.20	-9.54	-10.10
Top Quartile																				
High School Graduates	1153	1234	1286	1335	1315	1420	1495	1524	1504	1543	1617	1734	1776	1757	1769	1756	1711	1640	1575	1542
College Participants	958	971	969	956	985	1045	1094	1155	1035	985	1052	1132	1248	1226	1255	1296	1272	1245	1184	1148
Participation Rate(%)	83.13	78.62	75.34	71.58	74.93	73.60	73.13	75.82	68.85	63.81	65.05	65.60	70.29	69.77	70.90	73.82	74.35	75.95	75.21	74.40

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 21
Female College Participation Rates for Unmarried High School Graduates
Age 18 to 24 By Family Income
1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
High School Graduates	4106	4327	4511	4370	4431	4718	5050	5105	5199	5426	5757	6122	6229	6345	6125	6074	6050	5982	5945	5643
College Participants	2328	2440	2550	2454	2505	2806	3126	3043	3023	3136	3390	3640	3679	3816	3591	3717	3764	3804	3871	3648
Participation Rate(%)	56.70	56.39	56.53	56.16	56.53	59.48	61.90	59.61	58.15	57.77	58.88	59.46	59.06	60.14	58.63	61.19	62.21	63.59	65.11	64.65
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
High School Graduates	1106	1221	1261	1228	1251	1366	1461	1468	1504	1506	1644	1766	1761	1809	1785	1730	1729	1690	1637	1549
College Participants	468	535	514	497	516	623	643	673	653	683	722	778	745	742	675	721	784	762	766	701
Participation Rate(%)	42.34	43.86	40.76	40.01	41.26	45.61	44.00	45.81	43.44	44.58	43.90	44.09	42.30	41.04	37.82	41.49	45.34	44.88	45.43	45.23
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-31.77	-30.22	-30.74	-31.72	-31.74	-31.53	-36.44	-31.36	-29.83	-27.16	-28.92	-28.04	-32.81	-37.35	-36.42	-36.25	-35.53	-37.84	-38.60	-37.53
Second Quartile																				
High School Graduates	1028	1063	1077	1089	1070	1145	1239	1286	1270	1363	1411	1514	1535	1545	1485	1461	1457	1466	1406	1351
College Participants	527	561	581	564	576	621	729	737	696	737	781	846	866	906	880	853	851	903	863	845
Participation Rate(%)	51.26	52.71	53.95	51.84	53.84	54.23	58.81	57.35	54.80	54.05	55.39	55.88	56.46	58.72	59.27	58.40	58.40	61.58	61.40	62.55
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-22.85	-21.37	-17.54	-19.89	-19.16	-22.91	-21.63	-19.82	-18.47	-17.69	-17.43	-16.25	-18.65	-19.67	-14.97	-19.34	-22.47	-21.14	-22.63	-20.21
Third Quartile																				
High School Graduates	999	1021	1089	1034	1061	1111	1194	1207	1215	1291	1357	1424	1485	1477	1448	1484	1461	1423	1406	1330
College Participants	612	587	681	662	647	716	824	749	787	832	908	1001	981	980	988	1043	994	985	1027	946
Participation Rate(%)	61.29	57.51	62.47	64.05	60.99	64.41	69.00	62.06	64.78	64.43	66.90	70.30	66.03	66.39	68.25	70.28	68.02	69.19	73.06	71.11
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-12.82	-16.57	-9.02	-7.68	-12.01	-12.73	-11.44	-15.11	-8.49	-7.31	-5.92	-1.83	-9.08	-12.00	-5.99	-7.46	-12.85	-13.53	-10.97	-11.65
Top Quartile																				
High School Graduates	972	1022	1083	1019	1049	1096	1156	1145	1210	1216	1344	1417	1447	1514	1427	1414	1403	1394	1446	1313
College Participants	721	757	774	731	765	845	929	883	887	873	979	1022	1087	1187	1059	1100	1135	1153	1216	1086
Participation Rate(%)	74.11	74.08	71.49	71.73	73.00	77.14	80.44	77.17	73.27	71.74	72.82	72.13	75.11	78.39	74.24	77.74	80.87	82.72	84.03	82.76

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 22
White College Participation Rates for Unmarried High School Graduates
Age 18 to 24 By Family Income
1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
High School Graduates	7468	7860	8161	8079	8144	8700	8990	9020	9091	9291	9838	10359	10617	10767	10331	10451	10036	9591	9773	9235
College Participants	4712	4893	5024	4885	4781	5264	5521	5405	5299	5314	5707	6177	6199	6408	6242	6390	6176	6199	6321	5884
Participation Rate(%)	63.10	62.25	61.56	60.47	58.71	60.51	61.41	59.92	58.29	57.20	58.01	59.63	58.39	59.52	60.42	61.14	61.54	64.63	64.68	63.71
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
High School Graduates	1571	1572	1617	1634	1609	1707	1763	1732	1718	1816	1864	1934	2045	1976	1931	2057	1914	1763	1894	1789
College Participants	757	749	750	754	690	780	789	791	768	796	781	886	871	821	761	853	817	834	865	835
Participation Rate(%)	48.14	47.64	46.38	46.13	42.85	45.71	44.75	45.67	44.70	43.83	41.89	45.80	42.60	41.57	39.41	41.45	42.67	47.29	45.68	46.69
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-31.29	-29.50	-27.46	-26.04	-31.23	-29.35	-31.28	-30.62	-25.46	-23.53	-26.30	-22.58	-29.32	-32.47	-33.36	-34.25	-34.63	-32.04	-33.63	-31.64
Second Quartile																				
High School Graduates	1876	2005	2104	2073	2069	2204	2268	2280	2306	2317	2438	2603	2657	2748	2537	2584	2458	2379	2484	2287
College Participants	1061	1144	1189	1125	1090	1180	1240	1195	1193	1201	1289	1362	1373	1446	1393	1396	1335	1398	1456	1277
Participation Rate(%)	56.55	57.05	56.51	54.28	52.68	53.51	54.67	52.41	51.72	51.82	52.88	52.31	51.67	52.62	54.92	54.04	54.30	58.79	58.61	55.84
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-22.88	-20.09	-17.33	-17.89	-21.40	-21.55	-21.36	-23.88	-18.44	-15.54	-15.31	-16.07	-20.25	-21.42	-17.85	-21.66	-23.00	-20.54	-20.70	-22.49
Third Quartile																				
High School Graduates	1962	2119	2196	2164	2197	2356	2423	2457	2497	2531	2748	2902	2896	2981	2905	2820	2726	2684	2857	2519
College Participants	1259	1330	1429	1413	1320	1478	1564	1472	1535	1548	1735	1933	1784	1873	1935	1877	1753	1773	1828	1703
Participation Rate(%)	64.15	62.76	65.06	65.27	60.11	62.73	64.53	59.92	61.49	61.14	63.16	66.61	61.59	62.85	66.61	66.58	64.31	66.06	68.80	67.63
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-15.28	-14.38	-8.78	-6.90	-13.97	-12.33	-11.50	-16.37	-8.67	-6.22	-5.03	-1.77	-10.33	-11.19	-6.16	-9.12	-12.99	-13.27	-10.51	-10.70
Top Quartile																				
High School Graduates	2059	2164	2243	2208	2269	2433	2536	2551	2570	2627	2789	2920	3019	3062	2958	2991	2937	2765	2738	2641
College Participants	1635	1669	1656	1593	1681	1827	1928	1946	1803	1769	1902	1996	2171	2267	2152	2264	2271	2194	2172	2069
Participation Rate(%)	79.43	77.14	73.84	72.17	74.08	75.06	76.03	76.29	70.16	67.36	68.19	68.38	71.92	74.04	72.77	75.70	77.30	79.33	79.31	78.33

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 23
Black College Participation Rates for Unmarried High School Graduates
Age 18 to 24 By Family Income
1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
High School Graduates	908	1046	1185	1196	1173	1195	1418	1436	1517	1529	1730	1853	1920	1984	2110	1909	2009	1906	1644	1815
College Participants	408	492	551	516	560	617	785	730	747	759	833	839	895	904	943	834	938	931	798	897
Participation Rate(%)	44.93	47.04	46.50	43.14	47.74	51.63	55.36	50.84	49.24	49.64	48.15	45.28	46.61	45.56	44.69	43.69	46.69	48.85	48.54	49.42
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
High School Graduates	512	635	700	684	695	748	823	860	908	872	1025	1117	1092	1190	1143	1012	1044	964	793	957
College Participants	188	274	291	250	300	344	365	378	395	390	426	409	420	476	439	366	398	379	311	368
Participation Rate(%)	36.65	43.17	41.53	36.56	43.07	46.04	44.37	43.94	43.46	44.73	41.57	36.61	38.46	39.97	38.41	36.12	38.51	39.30	39.24	38.50
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-24.06	-13.65	-24.34	-26.01	-27.58	-37.68	-41.18	-31.06	-34.14	-15.13	-30.25	-31.70	-36.74	-24.47	-27.74	-29.44	-24.16	-30.87	-30.05	-37.36
Second Quartile																				
High School Graduates	206	219	236	243	266	267	331	335	353	374	443	434	482	451	571	531	569	525	438	498
College Participants	103	109	118	109	129	144	216	197	178	205	233	227	248	215	265	242	290	280	204	282
Participation Rate(%)	49.86	49.86	49.82	44.87	48.55	53.74	65.14	58.85	50.52	54.79	52.66	52.23	51.32	47.59	46.42	45.59	50.94	53.35	46.56	56.70
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-10.85	-6.96	-16.05	-17.70	-22.10	-29.98	-20.41	-16.15	-27.08	-5.07	-19.16	-16.08	-23.88	-16.85	-19.73	-19.97	-7.73	-16.82	-22.73	-19.16
Third Quartile																				
High School Graduates	134	117	156	154	149	117	181	168	155	189	154	160	249	212	225	265	292	260	274	249
College Participants	83	66	81	81	87	76	133	100	96	108	96	106	154	128	125	160	185	163	187	162
Participation Rate(%)	61.72	56.50	51.58	52.30	58.06	65.21	73.47	59.62	61.46	57.04	62.41	66.55	61.83	60.52	55.81	60.39	63.42	62.53	67.99	64.99
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	+1.01	-0.32	-14.29	-10.27	-12.59	-18.51	-12.08	-15.38	-16.14	-2.82	-9.41	-1.76	-13.37	-3.92	-10.34	-5.17	+0.75	-7.64	-1.30	-10.87
Top Quartile																				
High School Graduates	55	75	93	114	63	63	83	73	101	94	108	142	96	131	172	101	104	156	140	111
College Participants	34	43	61	71	44	53	71	55	78	56	77	97	72	84	114	66	65	110	97	85
Participation Rate(%)	60.71	56.82	65.87	62.57	70.65	83.72	85.55	75.00	77.60	59.86	71.82	68.31	75.20	64.44	66.15	65.56	62.67	70.17	69.29	75.86

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 24
Other Race College Participation Rates for Unmarried High School Graduates
Age 18 to 24 By Family Income
1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
High School Graduates	124	118	130	145	135	165	196	220	248	224	272	352	355	333	343	320	411	639	657	370
College Participants	87	85	101	93	106	119	130	171	190	148	191	260	290	226	229	248	317	353	437	263
Participation Rate(%)	70.16	72.03	77.69	64.14	78.52	72.12	66.33	77.73	76.61	66.07	70.22	73.86	81.69	67.87	66.76	77.50	77.13	55.24	66.52	71.08
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
High School Graduates	42	49	52	37	59	60	65	77	88	73	71	90	86	105	123	101	156	307	335	110
College Participants	29	35	36	22	48	49	29	58	60	44	39	56	65	62	64	73	94	96	161	70
Participation Rate(%)	69.05	71.43	69.23	59.46	81.36	81.67	44.62	75.32	68.18	60.27	54.93	62.22	75.59	59.05	52.03	72.28	60.26	31.27	48.06	63.64
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-21.86	-16.81	-9.56	-10.24	+10.71	+29.04	-30.38	-9.12	-29.49	-22.23	-27.61	-16.26	-9.60	-20.44	-20.70	-12.34	-37.00	-61.65	-43.55	-14.03
Second Quartile																				
High School Graduates	43	32	29	39	28	44	52	54	55	70	79	104	84	72	88	55	87	130	99	70
College Participants	30	23	22	29	20	27	38	37	37	41	56	81	70	51	70	34	67	86	72	51
Participation Rate(%)	69.77	71.88	75.86	74.36	71.43	61.36	73.08	68.52	67.27	58.57	70.89	77.88	83.33	70.83	79.55	61.82	77.01	66.15	72.73	72.86
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-21.14	-16.36	-2.93	+4.66	-9.22	+8.73	-1.92	-15.92	-30.40	-23.93	-11.65	-0.60	-1.86	-8.66	+6.82	-22.80	-20.25	-26.77	-18.88	-4.81
Third Quartile																				
High School Graduates	29	20	17	37	17	42	47	44	62	41	58	79	78	78	66	85	96	90	90	87
College Participants	18	13	16	24	13	32	39	39	51	30	45	62	64	53	48	75	85	76	73	61
Participation Rate(%)	62.07	65.00	94.12	64.86	76.47	76.19	82.98	88.64	82.26	73.17	77.59	78.48	82.05	67.95	72.73	88.24	88.54	84.44	81.11	70.11
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-28.84	-23.24	+15.33	-4.84	-4.18	+23.56	+7.98	+4.20	-15.41	-9.33	-4.95	0.00	-3.14	-11.54	0.00	+3.62	-8.72	-8.48	-10.50	-7.56
Top Quartile																				
High School Graduates	11	17	33	33	31	19	32	45	43	40	63	79	108	78	66	78	73	113	143	103
College Participants	10	15	26	23	25	10	24	38	42	33	52	62	92	62	48	66	71	105	131	80
Participation Rate(%)	90.91	88.24	78.79	69.70	80.65	52.63	75.00	84.44	97.67	82.50	82.54	78.48	85.19	79.49	72.73	84.62	97.26	92.92	91.61	77.67

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 21
Hispanic College Participation Rates for Unmarried High School Graduates
Age 18 to 24 By Family Income
1972 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
High School Graduates	348	366	441	445	460	451	408	485	589	646	674	687	722	826	891	913	859	835
College Participants	146	192	256	269	265	253	194	234	317	338	340	363	368	436	444	463	467	405
Participation Rate(%)	41.95	52.46	58.05	60.45	57.61	56.10	47.55	48.25	53.82	52.32	50.45	52.84	50.97	52.78	49.83	50.71	54.60	48.50
Family Income Quartiles																		
Bottom Quartile																		
High School Graduates	157	165	192	179	204	217	196	200	234	254	291	280	295	362	398	395	337	318
College Participants	57	76	103	105	104	99	80	85	109	105	116	136	133	174	164	166	140	144
Participation Rate(%)	36.61	46.21	53.87	58.27	50.73	45.40	41.06	40.46	46.47	41.34	39.95	48.58	44.96	48.05	41.25	42.03	41.41	45.27
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-7.58	-24.62	-31.49	-12.34	-12.24	-29.11	-26.44	-17.54	-23.53	-27.94	-41.96	-25.15	-17.39	-16.85	-28.19	-37.45	-32.91	-7.00
Second Quartile																		
High School Graduates	95	111	137	142	117	113	119	144	183	209	200	196	184	237	273	295	314	271
College Participants	45	58	74	76	72	65	56	74	97	109	96	92	86	112	153	160	178	125
Participation Rate(%)	47.32	52.00	54.03	53.26	61.72	57.89	46.87	51.62	53.16	52.40	47.84	46.83	46.98	47.28	55.98	54.08	56.68	45.97
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	+3.13	-18.83	-31.33	-17.35	-1.25	-16.62	-20.63	-6.38	-16.84	-16.88	-34.07	-26.90	-15.37	-17.62	-13.46	-25.40	-17.64	-6.30
Third Quartile																		
High School Graduates	55	59	67	60	84	72	61	66	95	101	111	125	134	127	138	149	160	157
College Participants	30	36	41	42	55	52	36	37	57	67	69	71	81	85	70	79	116	90
Participation Rate(%)	54.34	61.27	60.91	70.47	65.08	73.11	59.29	55.80	59.99	66.56	62.24	57.05	60.45	66.96	50.44	52.79	72.45	57.34
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	+10.15	-9.56	-24.45	-0.14	+2.11	-1.40	-8.21	-2.20	-10.01	-2.72	-19.67	-16.68	-1.90	+2.06	-19.00	-26.69	-1.87	+5.07
Top Quartile																		
High School Graduates	32	30	45	64	54	49	32	66	77	82	72	86	109	100	82	74	48	89
College Participants	14	22	38	45	34	37	22	38	54	57	59	63	68	65	57	59	35	46
Participation Rate(%)	44.19	70.83	85.35	70.61	62.97	74.51	67.50	58.00	70.00	69.28	81.91	73.73	62.35	64.90	69.44	79.48	74.32	52.27

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 26
College Participation Behaviors for Unmarried High School Graduates
Age 18 to 24 By Family Income
1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
High School Graduates	8500	9024	9476	9420	9452	10060	10604	10676	10856	11044	11840	12564	12892	13084	12784	12680	12456	12136	12084	11428
Enrolled in College	4195	4368	4414	4166	4190	4751	5012	4940	4791	4816	5214	5535	5609	5654	5609	5567	5552	5782	5903	5470
Enrollment Rate(%)	49.35	48.40	46.58	44.23	44.33	47.23	47.27	46.27	44.13	43.61	44.04	44.05	43.51	43.21	43.88	43.90	44.57	47.64	48.85	47.86
1-3 Years College	726	784	1173	966	888	902	1026	933	1055	1011	1091	1196	1242	1340	1226	1229	1329	1216	1201	1057
Some College Rate(%)	8.54	8.69	12.38	10.25	9.39	8.97	9.68	8.74	9.72	9.15	9.21	9.52	9.63	10.24	9.59	9.69	10.67	10.02	9.94	9.25
4 Years College	287	229	333	362	369	347	398	373	391	395	427	547	535	544	579	606	550	486	551	517
Graduate Rate(%)	3.38	2.54	3.51	3.84	3.90	3.45	3.75	3.49	3.61	3.58	3.61	4.35	4.15	4.16	4.53	4.78	4.42	4.00	4.56	4.52
Bottom Quartile Enrolled in College																				
High School Graduates	2125	2256	2369	2355	2363	2515	2651	2669	2714	2761	2960	3141	3223	3271	3196	3170	3114	3034	3021	2855
College Participants	772	820	831	744	795	921	914	925	927	897	887	994	949	932	880	932	945	986	968	974
Enrolled Rate(%)	36.32	36.34	35.08	31.60	33.65	36.62	34.50	34.65	34.17	32.49	29.98	31.67	29.45	28.50	27.53	29.43	30.34	32.50	32.04	34.12
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-27.96	-25.95	-21.99	-24.38	-25.66	-24.03	-26.11	-27.15	-21.54	-21.01	-25.15	-21.20	-28.25	-29.72	-30.78	-26.97	-27.52	-29.78	-30.92	-29.64
1 to 3 Years College																				
High School Graduates	2125	2256	2369	2355	2363	2515	2651	2669	2714	2761	2960	3141	3223	3271	3196	3170	3114	3034	3021	2855
College Participants	156	194	197	233	192	208	193	239	245	262	299	289	323	360	299	284	304	290	315	241
1 to 3 Years Rate(%)	7.33	8.58	8.33	9.88	8.11	8.26	7.29	8.95	9.03	9.49	10.11	9.19	10.01	11.02	9.37	8.95	9.75	9.54	10.41	8.45
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-2.33	-0.47	-2.68	-1.12	-1.72	-1.41	-3.33	-0.92	-1.20	-0.05	+1.34	-0.52	+1.79	+1.70	-0.06	-2.14	-2.02	-0.81	+1.62	+0.26
4 Years or More College																				
High School Graduates	2125	2256	2369	2355	2363	2515	2651	2669	2714	2761	2960	3141	3223	3271	3196	3170	3114	3034	3021	2855
College Participants	47	44	49	49	51	44	75	63	51	71	60	68	85	67	85	76	60	34	54	58
4 Years + Rate(%)	2.19	1.96	2.09	2.09	2.17	1.76	2.82	2.36	1.87	2.58	2.02	2.16	2.63	2.04	2.67	2.39	1.94	1.11	1.80	2.04
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-2.87	-3.27	-3.43	-2.57	-2.76	-3.08	-2.28	-2.37	-3.05	-1.69	-2.33	-3.85	-3.90	-4.19	-3.99	-5.71	-5.72	-4.37	-5.88	-4.35

Total	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Second Quartile																				
Enrolled in College																				
High School Graduates	2125	2256	2369	2355	2363	2515	2651	2669	2714	2761	2960	3141	3223	3271	3196	3170	314	3034	3021	2855
College Participants	971	1004	1032	936	941	1069	1122	1101	1064	1120	1204	1260	1269	1231	1294	1233	1240	1318	1324	1204
Enrolled Rate(%)	45.68	44.50	43.55	39.77	39.80	42.50	42.32	41.27	39.31	40.57	40.69	40.10	39.37	37.64	40.49	38.90	39.83	43.44	43.85	42.18
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-18.60	-17.79	-13.50	-18.21	-19.51	-17.55	-18.29	-20.53	-16.50	-12.93	-14.44	-12.77	-18.33	-20.58	-15.09	-17.50	-18.03	-18.84	-19.11	-21.48
1 to 3 Years College																				
High School Graduates	2125	2256	2369	2355	2363	2515	2651	2669	2714	2761	2960	3141	3223	3271	3196	3170	3114	3034	3021	2855
College Participants	161	190	478	231	226	221	283	239	270	235	276	302	331	364	326	313	349	345	304	297
1 to 3 Years Rate(%)	7.58	8.41	9.92	9.82	9.55	8.80	10.68	8.97	9.98	8.49	9.33	9.62	10.26	11.12	10.19	9.88	11.21	11.37	10.07	10.40
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-2.08	-0.64	-1.09	-1.18	-0.28	-0.87	-0.04	-0.90	-0.27	-1.05	+0.56	-0.09	+2.04	+1.80	+0.76	-1.21	-0.56	+1.02	+1.28	+2.31
4 Years or More College																				
High School Graduates	2125	2256	2369	2355	2363	2515	2651	2669	2714	2761	2960	3141	3223	3271	3196	3170	3114	3034	3021	2855
College Participants	62	82	62	96	73	61	90	89	74	93	98	109	91	117	108	126	103	101	103	109
4 Years + Rate(%)	2.92	3.65	2.62	4.05	3.10	2.43	3.39	3.33	2.72	3.36	3.30	3.46	2.81	3.58	3.37	3.98	3.30	3.34	3.41	3.82
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-2.14	-1.58	-2.90	-0.61	-1.83	-3.01	-1.71	-1.40	-2.20	-0.91	-1.05	-2.55	-3.72	-2.65	-3.29	-4.12	-4.36	-2.14	-4.27	-2.57
Third Quartile																				
Enrolled in College																				
High School Graduates	2125	2256	2369	2355	2363	2515	2651	2669	2714	2761	2960	3141	3223	3271	3196	3170	3114	3034	3021	2855
College Participants	1085	1139	1199	1167	1053	1251	1369	1265	1288	1322	1491	1620	1531	1586	1636	1614	1566	1589	1609	1474
Enrolled Rate(%)	51.08	50.46	50.61	49.57	44.56	49.73	51.66	47.40	47.47	47.89	50.38	51.58	47.51	48.50	51.18	50.91	50.28	52.35	53.27	51.63
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-13.20	-11.83	-6.44	-8.41	-14.75	-10.32	-8.95	-14.40	-8.34	-5.61	-4.75	-1.29	-10.19	-9.72	-4.40	-5.48	-7.58	-9.93	-9.69	-12.03
1 to 3 Years College																				
High School Graduates	2125	2256	2369	2355	2363	2515	2651	2669	2714	2761	2960	3141	3223	3271	3196	3170	3114	3034	3021	2855
College Participants	204	195	237	243	237	230	269	252	262	250	256	300	323	311	300	350	310	267	317	285
1 to 3 Years Rate(%)	9.60	8.66	9.99	10.33	10.05	9.15	9.10	9.43	9.65	9.07	8.66	9.56	10.01	9.51	9.37	11.06	9.95	8.82	10.48	9.98
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-0.06	-0.39	-1.02	-0.67	-0.22	-0.52	-1.52	-0.44	-0.58	-0.47	-0.11	-0.13	+1.79	+0.19	-0.06	-0.03	-1.82	-1.53	+1.69	+1.79
4 Years or More College																				
High School Graduates	2125	2256	2369	2355	2363	2515	2651	2669	2714	2761	2960	3141	3223	3271	3196	3170	3114	3034	3021	2855
College Participants	71	75	91	108	129	105	98	95	132	113	129	181	148	157	173	148	148	185	162	168
4 Years + Rate(%)	3.33	3.31	3.83	4.57	5.45	4.17	3.71	3.56	4.86	4.10	4.35	5.75	4.60	4.78	5.42	4.66	4.76	6.08	5.36	5.87
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-1.73	-1.92	-1.69	-0.09	+0.52	-1.27	-1.39	-1.17	-0.06	-0.17	-0.37	-0.26	-1.93	-1.45	-1.24	-3.44	-2.90	+0.60	-2.33	-0.52

Total	**1970**	**1971**	**1972**	**1973**	**1974**	**1975**	**1976**	**1977**	**1978**	**1979**	**1980**	**1981**	**1982**	**1983**	**1984**	**1985**	**1986**	**1987**	**1988**	**1989**
Top Quartile																				
Enrolled in College																				
High School Graduates	2125	2256	2369	2355	2363	2515	2651	2669	2714	2761	2960	3141	3223	3271	3196	3170	3114	3034	3021	2855
College Participants	1366	1405	1352	1318	1401	1510	1607	1649	1512	1477	1631	1661	1860	1904	1799	1788	1802	1890	1902	1818
Enrolled Rate(%)	64.28	62.29	57.05	55.98	59.31	60.05	60.61	61.80	55.71	53.50	55.13	52.87	57.70	58.22	56.31	56.40	57.86	62.28	62.96	63.66
1 to 3 Years College																				
High School Graduates	2125	2256	2369	2355	2363	2515	2651	2669	2714	2761	2960	3141	3223	3271	3196	3170	3114	3034	3021	2855
College Participants	205	204	261	259	232	243	281	263	278	263	259	305	265	305	301	352	366	314	266	234
1 to 3 Years Rate(%)	9.66	9.05	11.01	11.00	9.83	9.67	10.62	9.87	10.23	9.54	8.77	9.71	8.22	9.32	9.43	11.09	11.77	10.35	8.79	8.19
4 Years or More College																				
High School Graduates	2125	2256	2369	2355	2363	2515	2651	2669	2714	2761	2960	3141	3223	3271	3196	3170	3114	3034	3021	2855
College Participants	108	118	131	110	117	137	135	126	134	118	140	189	210	204	213	257	239	166	232	182
4 Years + Rate(%)	5.08	5.23	5.52	4.66	4.93	5.44	5.10	4.73	4.92	4.72	4.35	6.01	6.53	6.23	6.66	8.10	7.66	5.48	7.68	6.39

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 27
College Enrollment By Institutional Control for Unmarried High School Graduates
Age 18 to 24 by Family Income
1971 to 1979, 1981 to 1986, 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1989
College Enrollment	4368	4414	4165	4140	4751	5012	4940	4791	4816	5536	5609	5654	5609	5567	5552	5469
Public College Enrollment	3369	3355	3136	3134	3693	3878	3802	3544	3652	4104	4265	4272	4437	4292	4218	4305
Public Share	77.13	76.01	75.29	75.70	77.73	77.37	76.96	73.97	75.83	74.13	76.04	75.56	79.11	77.10	75.97	78.72
Private College Enrollment	999	1059	1030	1005	1058	1132	1138	1247	1163	1430	1344	1383	1172	1274	1334	1164
Private Share	22.87	23.99	24.73	24.28	22.27	22.59	23.04	26.03	24.15	25.83	23.96	24.46	20.89	22.88	24.03	21.28
Family Income Quartiles																
Bottom Quartile																
College Enrollment	820	831	744	795	921	914	925	927	897	995	949	932	880	933	945	947
Public College Enrollment	666	696	600	664	750	764	783	730	717	820	779	731	748	769	766	800
Public Share	81.25	83.79	80.59	83.54	81.44	83.57	84.63	78.71	79.89	82.48	82.06	78.38	84.97	82.49	81.05	82.12
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	+9.46	+14.03	+9.72	+13.92	+8.15	+10.67	+14.98	+8.78	+5.43	+12.68	+9.69	+5.88	+7.63	+10.19	+9.04	+8.03
Private College Enrollment	154	135	144	130	171	150	142	197	180	174	170	202	132	163	179	174
Private Share	18.75	16.21	19.41	16.46	18.56	16.43	15.37	21.29	20.11	17.52	17.94	21.62	15.03	17.51	18.95	17.88
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-9.46	-14.03	-9.72	-13.92	-8.15	-10.67	-14.98	-8.78	-5.43	-12.68	-9.69	-5.88	-7.63	-10.19	-9.04	-8.03
Second Quartile																
College Enrollment	1004	1032	936	941	1069	1122	1101	1064	1120	1260	1269	1231	1294	1233	1240	1203
Public College Enrollment	810	816	743	734	851	882	895	810	863	981	993	972	1020	990	977	960
Public Share	80.64	79.04	79.32	78.03	79.60	78.67	81.25	76.15	77.13	77.92	78.25	78.97	78.83	80.25	78.83	79.78
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	+8.85	+9.28	+8.45	+8.41	+6.31	+5.77	+11.60	+6.22	+2.67	+8.12	+5.88	+6.47	+1.49	+7.95	+7.62	+5.69
Private College Enrollment	194	216	194	207	218	239	206	254	256	278	276	259	274	243	262	243
Private Share	19.36	20.96	20.68	21.97	20.40	21.33	18.75	23.85	22.87	22.06	21.75	21.03	21.17	19.75	21.17	20.22
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-8.85	-9.28	-8.45	-8.41	-6.31	-5.77	-11.60	-6.22	-2.67	+8.14	-5.88	-6.47	-1.49	-7.95	-7.62	-5.69

Total	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1989
Third Quartile																
College Enrollment	1139	1199	1167	1003	1251	1369	1265	1288	1322	1620	1531	1586	1636	1614	1566	1474
Public College Enrollment	884	900	859	760	985	1061	975	947	972	1144	1148	1188	1277	1241	1192	1198
Public Share	77.65	75.03	73.61	75.79	78.77	77.51	77.09	73.51	73.51	70.61	74.93	74.92	78.07	76.89	76.13	81.30
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	+5.86	+5.27	+2.74	+6.17	+5.48	+4.61	+7.44	+3.58	-0.95	+0.81	+2.56	+2.42	+0.73	+4.59	+4.92	+7.21
Private College Enrollment	254	299	308	243	266	308	290	341	350	476	384	398	359	373	374	276
Private Share	22.35	24.97	26.39	24.21	21.23	22.49	22.91	26.49	26.49	29.39	25.07	25.08	21.93	23.11	23.87	18.70
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-5.86	-5.27	-2.74	-6.17	-5.48	-4.61	-7.44	-3.58	+0.95	-0.81	-2.56	-2.42	-0.73	-4.59	-4.92	-7.21
Top Quartile																
College Enrollment	1405	1352	1318	1401	1510	1607	1649	1512	1477	1661	1860	1904	1800	1788	1802	1818
Public College Enrollment	1009	943	934	976	1107	1171	1149	1057	1100	1159	1346	1381	1392	1292	1283	1347
Public Share	71.79	69.76	70.87	69.62	73.29	72.90	69.65	69.93	74.46	69.80	72.37	72.50	77.34	72.30	71.21	74.09
Private College Enrollment	396	409	384	426	403	435	501	455	377	501	514	524	408	495	519	471
Private Share	28.21	30.24	29.13	30.38	26.71	27.10	30.35	30.07	25.54	30.20	27.63	27.50	22.66	27.70	28.79	25.91

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 28
College Enrollment By Status for Unmarried High School Graduates
Age 18 to 24 By Family Income
1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	**1970**	**1971**	**1972**	**1973**	**1974**	**1975**	**1976**	**1977**	**1978**	**1979**	**1980**	**1981**	**1982**	**1983**	**1984**	**1985**	**1986**	**1987**	**1988**	**1989**
Total Population	4194	4368	4414	4165	4140	4751	5012	4940	4791	4816	5214	5536	5609	5654	5609	5567	5552	5778	5807	5469
Full Time	3839	3983	4024	3814	3694	4241	4441	4324	4235	4285	4548	4860	4856	4919	4894	4841	4832	4937	5018	4745
Full Time Share(%)	91.54	91.19	91.16	91.57	89.23	89.27	88.61	87.53	88.39	88.97	87.23	87.79	86.58	87.00	87.25	86.96	87.03	85.44	86.41	86.76
Part Time	355	385	389	352	447	510	572	617	557	532	666	675	761	734	715	725	720	841	789	724
Part Time Share(%)	8.46	8.81	8.81	8.45	10.80	10.73	11.41	12.49	11.63	11.05	12.77	12.19	13.57	12.98	12.75	13.02	12.97	14.56	13.59	13.24
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
Population	772	820	831	744	795	921	914	925	927	897	887	995	949	932	880	933	945	986	968	974
Full Time	706	767	756	676	687	807	804	809	814	800	776	858	799	795	748	780	780	810	821	815
Full Time Share(%)	91.43	93.53	91.00	90.84	86.42	87.64	87.91	87.45	87.75	89.13	87.46	86.24	84.16	85.28	84.99	83.67	82.51	82.12	84.85	83.66
Part Time	66	53	75	68	108	114	111	116	114	98	111	137	150	137	132	152	165	176	147	159
Part Time Share(%)	8.57	6.47	9.00	9.16	13.58	12.36	12.09	12.55	12.25	10.87	12.54	13.76	15.84	14.72	15.01	16.33	17.49	17.88	15.15	16.34
Second Quartile																				
Population	971	1004	1032	936	941	1069	1122	1101	1064	1120	1204	1260	1269	1231	1294	1233	1240	1317	1325	1203
Full Time	868	904	937	850	841	936	976	951	936	978	1020	1090	1097	1070	1115	1064	1059	1097	1138	1028
Full Time Share(%)	89.43	90.07	90.79	90.79	89.42	87.56	86.99	86.33	87.94	87.36	84.68	86.54	86.42	86.90	86.19	86.27	85.41	83.31	85.86	85.47
Part Time	103	100	95	86	100	133	146	151	128	142	185	169	172	161	179	169	181	220	187	175
Part Time Share(%)	10.57	9.93	9.21	9.21	10.58	12.44	13.01	13.67	12.06	12.64	15.32	13.46	13.58	13.10	13.81	13.73	14.59	16.69	14.14	14.53

Total	**1970**	**1971**	**1972**	**1973**	**1974**	**1975**	**1976**	**1977**	**1978**	**1979**	**1980**	**1981**	**1982**	**1983**	**1984**	**1985**	**1986**	**1987**	**1988**	**1989**
Third Quartile																				
Population	1085	1139	1199	1167	1003	1251	1369	1265	1288	1322	1491	1620	1531	1586	1636	1614	1566	1585	1610	1474
Full Time	982	1018	1091	1071	893	1123	1210	1098	1144	1182	1309	1434	1315	1384	1438	1399	1384	1366	1373	1283
Full Time Share(%)	90.48	89.43	91.02	91.77	89.02	89.78	88.38	86.78	88.84	89.43	87.82	88.54	85.88	87.25	87.94	86.71	88.39	86.17	85.30	87.04
Part Time	103	120	108	96	110	128	159	167	144	140	182	186	216	202	197	214	528	219	237	191
Part Time Share(%)	9.52	10.57	8.98	8.23	10.98	10.22	11.62	13.22	11.16	10.57	12.18	11.46	14.12	12.75	12.06	13.29	11.61	13.83	14.70	12.96
Top Quartile																				
Population	1366	1405	1352	1318	1401	1510	1607	1649	1512	1477	1631	1661	1860	1904	1800	1788	1801	1890	1905	1818
Full Time	1283	1293	1240	1217	1273	1375	1451	1466	1340	1325	1442	1478	1645	1670	1593	1598	1610	1664	1686	1619
Full Time Share(%)	93.93	92.04	91.74	92.30	90.84	91.03	90.32	88.89	88.66	89.70	88.44	88.98	88.43	87.70	88.50	89.37	89.34	88.05	88.53	89.05
Part Time	83	112	112	102	128	135	155	183	171	152	189	183	215	234	207	190	192	226	218	199
Part Time Share(%)	6.07	7.96	8.26	7.70	9.16	8.97	9.68	11.11	11.34	10.30	11.56	11.02	11.57	12.30	11.50	10.63	10.66	11.95	11.47	10.95

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 29
Family Income Quartiles for Married (Spouse Present) High School Graduates Age 18 to 24
1970 to 1989

	Bottom	Second	Third
1989	$13,253	$22,430	$31,971
1988	12,661	20,740	29,872
1987	12,560	19,562	28,611
1986	12,227	19,064	28,157
1985	12,210	18,890	27,815
1984	11,362	17,291	25,859
1983	11,014	16,744	24,506
1982	11,018	16,721	23,992
1981	10,352	15,121	21,998
1980	9,815	14,452	20,411
1979	9,237	13,603	18,867
1978	8,522	12,757	17,539
1977	7,641	11,652	15,635
1976	6,928	10,496	14,197
1975	6,703	9,919	13,708
1974	6,548	9,620	13,261
1973	5,930	8,756	12,429
1972	5,274	7,843	11,371
1971	5,180	7,569	10,454
1970	5,185	7,293	9,784

TABLE 36
College Participation Rates for All Married (Spouse Present) High School Graduates
Age 18 to 24 By Family Income
1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
High School Graduates	6472	6736	6796	7153	7153	6828	6390	6234	6015	5815	5841	5877	5587	5388	5045	4877	4616	4331	3823	3804
College Participants	2376	2611	2621	2587	2630	2483	2378	2147	2064	2024	2013	2068	2003	1862	1758	1718	1694	1614	1473	1597
Participation Rate(%)	36.71	38.76	38.57	36.17	36.77	36.36	37.21	34.44	34.31	34.81	34.46	35.19	35.85	34.56	34.85	35.23	36.70	37.27	38.53	41.98
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
High School Graduates	1618	1684	1699	1788	1788	1707	1598	1559	1504	1454	1460	1469	1397	1347	1261	1219	1154	1083	956	951
College Participants	658	685	628	599	629	575	557	511	405	477	442	472	446	373	362	343	325	283	254	337
Participation Rate(%)	40.69	40.69	36.96	33.47	35.18	33.71	34.87	32.77	26.95	32.78	30.28	32.16	31.93	27.67	28.68	28.14	28.16	26.17	26.62	35.48
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-0.94	-2.90	-10.83	-9.04	-8.38	-11.20	-11.42	-9.73	-15.62	-11.57	-16.11	-13.26	-12.31	-20.16	-18.50	-17.81	-20.59	-26.69	-25.57	-18.80
Second Quartile																				
High School Graduates	1618	1684	1699	1788	1788	1707	1598	1559	1504	1454	1460	1469	1397	1347	1261	1219	1154	1083	956	951
College Participants	483	523	527	579	582	543	521	482	476	438	412	425	448	399	383	348	353	327	299	356
Participation Rate(%)	29.56	31.07	31.01	32.35	32.53	31.80	32.62	30.95	31.68	30.13	28.19	28.90	32.07	29.63	30.39	28.55	30.57	30.24	31.29	37.39
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-12.07	-12.52	-16.78	-10.16	-11.03	-13.11	-13.67	-11.55	-10.89	-14.22	-18.20	-16.52	-12.17	-18.20	-16.79	-17.40	-18.18	-22.62	-20.90	-16.89
Third Quartile																				
High School Graduates	1618	1684	1699	1788	1788	1707	1598	1559	1504	1454	1460	1469	1397	1347	1261	1219	1154	1083	956	951
College Participants	561	669	654	650	640	598	560	492	542	465	482	504	491	446	418	467	454	431	421	388
Participation Rate(%)	34.67	39.70	38.50	36.33	35.80	35.03	35.08	31.56	36.05	31.97	32.98	34.27	35.16	33.10	33.13	38.26	39.32	39.80	44.02	40.78
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-6.96	-3.89	-9.29	-6.18	-7.76	-9.88	-11.21	-10.95	-6.52	-12.38	-13.41	-11.15	-9.08	-14.73	-14.05	-7.69	-9.43	-13.06	-8.17	-13.50
Top Quartile																				
High School Graduates	1618	1684	1699	1788	1788	1707	1598	1559	1504	1454	1460	1469	1397	1347	1261	1219	1154	1083	956	951
College Participants	674	734	812	760	779	767	740	662	640	645	677	667	618	644	595	560	563	572	499	516
Participation Rate(%)	41.63	43.59	47.79	42.51	43.56	44.91	46.29	42.50	42.57	44.35	46.39	45.42	44.24	47.83	47.18	45.95	48.75	52.86	52.19	54.28

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 31
Male College Participation Rates for Married (Spouse Present) High School Graduates
Age 18 to 24 By Family Income
1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	**1970**	**1971**	**1972**	**1973**	**1974**	**1975**	**1976**	**1977**	**1978**	**1979**	**1980**	**1981**	**1982**	**1983**	**1984**	**1985**	**1986**	**1987**	**1988**	**1989**
High School Graduates	2391	2545	2549	2745	2738	2597	2338	2331	2248	2205	2161	2128	2027	1844	1744	1660	1641	1549	1244	1265
College Participants	1089	1212	1209	1170	1173	1083	959	860	817	828	733	774	747	612	634	590	594	538	487	542
Participation Rate(%)	45.55	47.62	47.43	42.62	42.84	41.70	41.02	36.89	36.34	37.55	33.92	36.37	36.85	33.19	36.35	35.54	36.20	34.73	39.15	42.85
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
High School Graduates	667	706	750	768	747	734	650	628	601	631	590	585	568	490	477	464	458	447	345	353
College Participants	337	353	345	300	306	298	253	226	186	229	183	208	197	147	159	139	129	113	103	134
Participation Rate(%)	50.49	50.07	45.97	39.10	41.02	40.62	38.93	35.98	30.95	36.30	31.00	35.62	34.60	29.94	33.36	30.01	28.17	25.33	29.76	38.07
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	+0.99	-0.56	-11.13	-10.45	-10.00	-10.12	-11.19	-9.07	-11.84	-6.67	-17.77	-11.54	-7.13	-14.27	-16.15	-13.40	-21.35	-26.38	-22.51	-16.51
Second Quartile																				
High School Graduates	618	661	645	717	697	668	606	610	591	550	566	546	504	484	454	426	418	404	320	303
College Participants	227	260	258	278	265	248	223	207	203	189	153	165	172	143	128	140	129	107	102	111
Participation Rate(%)	36.70	39.30	39.94	38.76	38.01	37.05	36.88	33.90	34.38	34.35	27.00	30.19	34.12	29.63	28.26	32.81	30.88	26.45	31.81	36.74
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-12.80	-11.33	-17.16	-10.79	-13.01	-13.69	-13.24	-11.15	-8.41	-8.62	-21.77	-16.97	-7.61	-14.58	-21.25	-10.60	-18.64	-25.26	-20.46	-17.84
Third Quartile																				
High School Graduates	588	630	593	662	665	615	557	595	564	507	549	527	505	476	402	393	422	381	299	315
College Participants	269	321	286	295	281	243	219	203	217	188	175	179	191	148	143	147	166	154	136	136
Participation Rate(%)	45.75	51.01	36.10	44.60	42.21	39.51	39.36	34.09	38.52	37.05	31.86	34.00	37.76	31.13	35.61	37.48	39.38	40.43	45.50	43.15
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-3.75	+0.38	-21.00	-4.95	-8.81	-11.23	-10.76	-10.96	-4.27	-5.92	-16.91	-13.16	-3.97	-13.08	-13.90	-5.93	-10.14	-11.28	-6.77	-11.43
Top Quartile																				
High School Graduates	518	548	561	599	629	580	526	498	492	518	456	470	450	393	411	377	342	317	281	294
College Participants	256	277	320	297	321	294	264	224	211	222	222	221	188	174	203	164	170	164	147	160
Participation Rate(%)	49.50	50.63	57.10	49.55	51.02	50.74	50.12	45.05	42.79	42.97	48.77	47.16	41.73	44.21	49.51	43.41	49.52	51.71	52.27	54.58

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 32
Female College Participation Rates for Married (Spouse Present) High School Graduates
Age 18 to 24 By Family Income
1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
High School Graduates	4081	4191	4247	4408	4415	4231	4052	3903	3767	3610	3680	3749	3560	3544	3301	3217	2975	2782	2579	2539
College Participants	1287	1399	1412	1417	1457	1400	1419	1287	1247	1196	1280	1294	1256	1250	1124	1128	1100	1076	986	1055
Participation Rate(%)	31.54	33.38	33.25	32.15	33.00	33.09	35.02	32.97	33.10	33.13	34.78	34.52	35.28	35.27	34.05	35.06	36.97	38.68	38.23	41.55
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
High School Graduates	951	978	949	1022	1041	973	948	930	903	823	870	885	829	857	784	755	696	635	611	598
College Participants	321	332	283	299	323	277	304	284	219	248	259	264	250	226	203	204	196	170	152	203
Participation Rate(%)	33.81	33.91	29.84	29.26	31.00	28.50	32.08	30.60	24.30	30.09	29.80	29.87	30.11	36.38	25.83	27.00	28.15	26.76	24.85	33.95
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-4.12	-6.28	-13.36	-9.70	-8.52	-13.41	-12.33	-10.69	-18.17	-12.95	-15.51	-14.73	-15.32	-12.95	-20.23	-20.09	-20.28	-26.57	-27.31	-20.19
Second Quartile																				
High School Graduates	1000	1022	1054	1071	1092	1039	992	949	912	903	894	923	893	862	807	794	736	679	636	647
College Participants	256	263	269	301	317	295	298	276	273	249	259	260	276	256	255	208	224	221	197	244
Participation Rate(%)	25.63	25.75	25.54	28.06	29.04	28.42	30.01	29.05	29.93	27.55	28.95	28.13	30.92	26.58	31.59	26.99	30.39	32.49	31.03	37.72
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-12.30	-14.44	-17.66	-10.90	-10.48	-13.49	-14.40	-12.24	-12.54	-15.49	-16.36	-16.47	-14.51	-22.75	-14.47	-20.10	-18.04	-20.84	-21.13	-16.42
Third Quartile																				
High School Graduates	1030	1054	1106	1126	1123	1093	1041	963	940	902	911	942	892	871	860	826	732	702	657	637
College Participants	292	347	368	354	360	355	341	289	325	277	307	324	300	298	275	319	288	277	285	252
Participation Rate(%)	28.34	32.95	33.27	31.46	32.00	32.51	32.79	29.98	34.56	30.71	33.66	34.43	33.68	34.17	31.97	38.64	39.28	39.46	43.35	39.58
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-9.59	-7.24	-9.93	-7.50	-7.52	-9.40	-11.62	-11.31	-7.91	-12.33	-11.65	-10.17	-11.75	-15.16	-14.09	-8.45	-9.15	-13.87	-8.81	-14.56
Top Quartile																				
High School Graduates	1100	1136	1138	1189	1159	1127	1072	1060	1012	981	1004	1000	946	954	850	842	812	766	675	657
College Participants	417	457	492	463	458	472	476	438	430	422	455	446	430	471	392	397	393	408	352	356
Participation Rate	37.93	40.19	43.20	38.96	39.52	41.91	44.41	41.29	42.47	43.04	45.31	44.60	45.43	49.33	46.06	47.09	48.43	53.33	52.16	54.14

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 33
White College Participation Rates for Married (Spouse Present) High School Graduates Age 18 to 24 By Family Income 1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
High School Graduates	5958	6182	6212	6518	6486	6205	5904	5713	5553	5316	5378	5413	5048	4961	4544	4323	4115	3854	3411	3401
College Participants	2248	2451	2430	2372	2390	2229	2193	1976	1908	1831	1827	1876	1799	1714	1545	1517	1491	1426	1292	1430
Participation Rate(%)	37.73	39.65	39.12	36.39	36.85	35.92	37.14	34.59	34.36	34.44	33.97	34.66	35.64	34.55	34.00	35.09	36.23	37.00	37.88	42.05
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
High School Graduates	1441	1509	1486	1568	1564	1500	1438	1317	1313	1242	1275	1296	1166	1183	1066	1017	959	914	815	835
College Participants	622	650	574	547	546	495	508	444	369	407	388	418	374	333	279	287	263	234	200	293
Participation Rate(%)	43.20	43.09	38.60	34.91	34.88	33.13	35.32	33.73	28.07	32.76	30.40	32.22	32.08	28.16	26.17	28.20	27.38	25.61	24.59	35.07
Difference From Top Quartile(%)	+0.83	-0.90	-9.13	-7.03	-8.66	-11.77	-10.80	-8.38	-13.72	-10.09	-15.10	-12.64	-11.77	-19.62	-20.64	-17.49	-21.12	-27.46	-27.05	-19.36
Second Quartile																				
High School Graduates	1502	1546	1561	1620	1623	1511	1458	1440	1390	1363	1366	1373	1271	1241	1126	1080	1005	956	844	830
College Participants	460	499	487	527	531	463	472	446	435	401	372	385	407	360	336	299	291	275	256	308
Participation Rate(%)	30.66	32.27	31.17	32.54	32.70	30.65	32.39	30.97	31.28	29.42	27.22	28.03	32.01	29.02	29.88	27.66	28.91	28.73	30.40	37.17
Difference From Top Quartile(%)	-11.71	-11.72	-16.56	-9.40	-10.84	-14.25	-13.73	-11.14	-10.51	-13.43	-18.38	-16.83	-11.84	-18.76	-16.93	-18.03	-19.59	-24.34	-21.24	-17.26
Third Quartile																				
High School Graduates	1498	1571	1567	1660	1652	1599	1500	1481	1422	1356	1356	1370	1295	1266	1173	1110	1086	987	867	855
College Participants	522	618	607	597	597	554	517	465	508	442	438	457	441	413	378	422	421	388	378	349
Participation Rate(%)	34.86	39.31	38.74	35.97	36.11	34.68	34.50	31.37	35.71	32.63	32.29	33.37	34.06	32.64	32.20	37.98	38.81	39.31	43.60	40.82
Difference From Top Quartile(%)	-7.51	-4.68	-8.99	-5.97	-7.43	-10.22	-11.62	-10.74	-6.08	-10.22	-13.31	-11.49	-9.79	-15.14	-14.61	-7.71	-9.69	-13.76	-8.04	-13.61
Top Quartile																				
High School Graduates	1518	1556	1598	1670	1647	1595	1507	1475	1428	1356	1380	1375	1316	1272	1178	1116	1064	997	886	882
College Participants	643	684	763	700	717	716	695	621	597	581	629	617	577	608	552	510	516	529	457	480
Participation Rate(%)	42.37	43.99	47.73	41.94	43.54	44.90	46.12	42.11	41.79	42.85	45.60	44.86	43.85	47.78	46.81	45.69	48.50	53.07	51.64	54.43

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 34
Black College Participation Rates for Married (Spouse Present) High School Graduates
Age 18 to 24 By Family Income
1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	**1970**	**1971**	**1972**	**1973**	**1974**	**1975**	**1976**	**1977**	**1978**	**1979**	**1980**	**1981**	**1982**	**1983**	**1984**	**1985**	**1986**	**1987**	**1988**	**1989**
High School Graduates	451	489	541	567	569	529	421	454	396	397	372	376	436	315	370	431	373	367	333	318
College Participants	101	135	173	177	183	206	149	138	129	150	136	149	161	95	163	149	143	140	142	119
Participation Rate(%)	22.39	27.61	31.98	31.22	32.16	38.94	35.39	30.40	32.58	37.78	36.56	39.63	36.93	30.16	44.05	34.57	38.34	38.15	42.64	37.42
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
High School Graduates	156	156	200	186	185	184	148	222	160	176	149	156	193	125	138	158	158	136	111	99
College Participants	27	30	49	50	52	66	46	60	30	57	39	43	54	21	62	40	48	36	21	38
Participation Rate(%)	17.60	19.16	24.30	27.05	28.25	35.74	31.28	26.89	18.60	32.59	26.17	27.88	28.07	17.04	44.97	25.55	30.36	26.68	19.22	38.48
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-10.57	-17.20	-22.69	-11.74	-15.43	-9.56	-12.68	-22.11	-33.91	-16.01	-28.02	-24.95	-22.74	-17.24	-18.07	-22.42	-22.78	-24.34	-32.74	-2.86
Second Quartile																				
High School Graduates	105	131	127	153	142	168	127	105	100	69	73	80	96	84	107	110	120	97	94	101
College Participants	17	25	35	44	40	64	41	29	37	29	29	33	31	29	34	41	49	38	56	35
Participation Rate(%)	16.13	19.34	27.25	28.88	28.14	37.93	32.67	27.42	36.86	41.81	39.43	41.79	32.31	34.80	31.50	36.97	40.91	39.14	59.36	34.35
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-12.04	-17.02	-19.74	-9.90	-15.54	-7.37	-11.29	-21.58	-15.65	-6.79	-14.76	-11.04	-18.50	+0.52	-31.54	-11.00	-12.23	-11.90	+7.40	-6.99
Third Quartile																				
High School Graduates	105	102	127	119	117	90	84	65	74	84	91	77	83	61	71	82	43	71	75	81
College Participants	33	43	49	40	36	37	34	19	30	31	36	39	43	29	33	29	18	34	38	31
Participation Rate(%)	31.08	42.49	38.42	33.82	30.89	42.22	40.35	29.71	40.46	36.55	39.68	60.80	52.15	47.47	46.88	35.72	42.65	47.38	49.68	38.15
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	+2.91	+6.13	-8.57	-4.97	-12.79	-3.08	-3.61	-19.29	-12.05	-12.05	-14.51	+7.97	+1.34	+13.19	-16.16	-12.25	-10.49	-3.64	-2.28	-3.19
Top Quartile																				
High School Graduates	85	100	87	109	125	87	62	61	62	68	60	63	64	45	54	80	52	63	53	37
College Participants	24	36	41	42	55	39	27	30	32	33	32	34	32	15	34	38	28	32	28	15
Participation Rate(%)	28.17	36.36	46.99	38.79	43.68	45.30	43.96	49.00	52.51	48.60	54.19	52.83	50.81	34.28	63.04	47.97	53.14	51.02	51.96	41.34

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 35

Hispanic College Participation Rate for Married (Spouse Present) High School Graduates Age 18 to 24 By Family Income 1972 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	**1972**	**1973**	**1974**	**1975**	**1976**	**1977**	**1978**	**1979**	**1980**	**1981**	**1982**	**1983**	**1984**	**1985**	**1986**	**1987**	**1988**	**1989**
High School Graduates	265	260	307	248	262	290	316	286	259	328	319	284	282	350	349	375	324	360
College Participants	56	73	95	76	87	56	110	100	82	108	112	87	83	116	118	104	92	116
Participation Rate(%)	21.13	28.08	30.94	30.65	33.21	19.31	34.81	34.97	31.66	32.93	35.11	30.63	29.43	33.14	33.81	27.73	28.40	32.22
Family Income Quartiles																		
Bottom Quartile																		
High School Graduates	84	106	122	77	90	92	103	122	85	88	108	84	98	124	110	143	119	149
College Participants	16	22	34	30	32	25	29	45	22	31	35	18	26	36	42	29	24	48
Participation Rate(%)	19.58	20.92	27.71	39.15	35.37	27.19	27.92	36.52	26.33	35.09	32.73	21.37	26.31	29.24	37.89	20.37	20.22	32.27
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-0.77	-15.09	-11.62	+7.96	-1.89	+5.56	-3.02	-7.57	-5.07	-2.41	-0.19	-14.37	+3.18	-5.20	-0.75	-28.08	-31.57	-18.08
Second Quartile																		
High School Graduates	79	69	91	60	78	69	97	66	66	82	74	59	71	91	82	88	87	76
College Participants	14	19	23	14	22	10	29	15	23	26	29	20	25	34	23	19	18	18
Participation Rate(%)	17.47	27.84	25.68	22.34	27.69	13.99	29.71	21.95	34.42	31.34	38.62	33.72	35.08	37.50	28.33	21.44	20.71	23.48
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-2.88	-8.17	-13.65	-8.85	-9.57	-7.64	-28.41	-22.14	+3.02	-6.16	+5.70	-2.02	+11.95	+3.06	-10.31	-27.01	-31.08	-26.87
Third Quartile																		
High School Graduates	55	52	52	70	56	59	70	43	59	94	73	59	44	64	91	67	67	83
College Participants	16	20	21	20	19	6	26	17	21	28	27	20	16	21	28	19	24	24
Participation Rate(%)	29.35	38.08	40.92	28.13	34.67	10.58	36.57	38.95	34.74	29.18	36.98	33.56	37.26	33.10	30.33	27.82	35.28	28.65
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	+9.00	+2.07	+1.59	-3.06	-2.59	-11.05	-21.55	-5.14	+3.34	-8.32	+4.06	-2.18	+14.13	-1.34	-8.31	-20.63	-16.51	-21.70
Top Quartile																		
High School Graduates	47	33	43	41	38	70	46	54	49	64	64	82	69	71	66	77	51	52
College Participants	10	12	17	13	14	15	27	24	15	24	21	29	16	24	26	37	26	26
Participation Rate(%)	20.35	36.01	39.33	31.19	37.26	21.63	58.12	44.09	31.40	37.50	32.92	35.74	23.13	34.44	38.64	48.45	51.79	50.35

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 38
College Participation Behaviors for All Married (Spouse Present) High School Graduates, Age 18 to 24 By Family Income
1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
High School Graduates	6472	6736	6796	7153	7153	6828	6390	6234	6015	5815	5841	5877	5587	5388	5045	4877	4616	4331	3823	3804
Enrolled in College	728	851	774	704	733	717	698	611	590	540	527	594	548	451	446	447	448	441	389	441
Enrollment Rate(%)	11.25	12.63	11.39	9.84	10.25	10.50	10.92	9.80	9.81	9.29	9.02	10.11	9.81	8.37	8.28	9.17	9.71	10.18	10.18	11.59
1-3 Years College	1042	1131	1240	1231	1256	1227	1108	1040	1055	1069	1042	1008	1002	958	955	877	923	816	746	816
Some College Rate(%)	16.10	16.79	18.25	17.21	17.56	17.97	17.34	16.68	17.54	18.83	17.84	17.15	17.93	17.78	18.93	17.98	20.00	18.84	19.51	21.45
4 Years College	606	629	607	652	641	539	572	496	419	415	444	466	453	453	357	394	323	357	338	357
Graduate Rate(%)	9.36	9.34	8.93	9.12	8.96	7.89	8.95	7.96	6.97	6.09	7.60	7.93	8.11	8.11	7.08	8.08	7.00	8.24	8.84	9.38
Bottom Quartile																				
Enrolled in College																				
High School Graduates	1618	1684	1699	1788	1788	1707	1598	1559	1504	1454	1460	1469	1397	1374	1261	1219	1154	1083	956	951
College Participants	281	313	288	231	232	224	208	193	171	176	162	195	162	146	137	132	130	112	99	165
Enrolled Rate(%)	17.37	18.58	16.93	12.89	12.98	13.12	13.01	12.40	11.35	12.10	11.07	13.27	11.57	10.84	10.87	10.85	11.22	10.31	10.33	17.30
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	+8.05	+8.87	+6.53	+3.84	+3.42	+2.63	+1.64	+2.35	+1.50	+1.89	+1.04	+3.52	+1.51	+2.69	+1.37	+1.67	+2.16	-.29	-1.10	+4.24
1 to 3 Years College																				
High School Graduates	1618	1684	1699	1788	1788	1707	1598	1559	1504	1454	1460	1469	1397	1374	1261	1219	1154	1083	956	951
College Participants	250	256	238	253	257	260	243	223	164	212	199	204	201	164	189	164	162	133	115	140
1 to 3 Years Rate(%)	15.43	15.22	13.99	14.14	14.38	15.24	15.22	14.31	10.91	14.53	13.63	13.88	14.38	12.20	14.96	13.46	14.01	12.31	12.00	14.71
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-1.53	-4.07	-9.19	-5.51	-5.72	-6.92	-4.87	-6.07	-10.80	-8.71	-9.60	-8.26	-6.59	-11.38	-9.46	-9.36	-11.92	-12.14	-11.13	-8.90
4 Years or More College																				
High School Graduates	1618	1684	1699	1788	1788	1707	1598	1559	1504	1454	1460	1469	1397	1374	1261	1219	1154	1083	956	951
College Participants	128	116	103	115	140	91	106	95	42	89	81	74	84	62	36	47	34	38	41	34
4 Years + Rate(%)	7.90	6.89	6.04	6.45	7.82	5.36	6.63	6.06	2.76	6.15	5.58	5.01	6.00	4.63	2.86	3.84	2.92	3.54	4.29	3.47
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-7.45	-7.70	-8.18	-7.15	-8.08	-6.90	-8.40	-6.00	-8.25	-4.75	-7.55	-8.52	-7.41	-11.47	-10.41	-10.11	-10.85	-14.27	-13.34	-14.13

Total	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Second Quartile																				
Enrolled in College																				
High School Graduates	1618	1684	1699	1788	1788	1707	1598	1559	1504	1454	1460	1469	1397	1374	1261	1219	1154	1083	956	951
College Participants	136	184	153	162	177	166	163	147	137	111	111	122	126	105	106	104	112	101	80	118
Enrolled Rate(%)	8.44	10.94	9.02	9.05	9.89	9.72	10.18	9.41	9.08	7.60	7.61	8.27	9.03	7.79	8.38	8.49	9.72	9.34	8.36	12.37
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-.88	+1.23	-1.38	-.20	+.33	-.77	-1.19	-.64	-.77	-2.61	-2.42	-1.48	-1.03	-.36	-1.12	-.69	+.66	-1.26	-3.07	-.69
1 to 3 Years College																				
High School Graduates	1618	1684	1699	1788	1788	1707	1598	1559	1504	1454	1460	1469	1397	1374	1261	1219	1154	1083	956	951
College Participants	246	244	285	299	298	274	253	235	264	254	225	215	246	216	224	182	196	169	185	174
1 to 3 Years Rate(%)	15.22	14.47	16.75	16.74	16.66	16.05	15.85	15.09	17.55	17.49	15.41	14.62	17.59	16.01	17.80	14.90	16.94	15.58	19.35	18.27
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-1.74	-4.82	-6.43	-2.91	-3.44	-6.11	-4.04	-5.29	-4.16	-5.75	-7.82	-7.52	-3.18	-7.57	-6.62	-7.92	-8.99	-8.87	-3.78	-5.34
4 Years or More College																				
High School Graduates	1618	1684	1699	1788	1788	1707	1598	1559	1504	1454	1460	1469	1397	1374	1261	1219	1154	1083	956	951
College Participants	100	95	89	118	107	103	105	100	105	73	76	88	76	79	53	63	45	58	34	64
4 Years + Rate(%)	6.20	5.66	5.24	6.57	5.98	6.03	6.59	6.44	6.97	5.04	5.17	6.01	5.44	5.83	4.22	5.15	3.91	5.32	3.57	6.75
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-9.15	-8.93	-8.98	-7.03	-7.92	-6.23	-8.44	-5.62	-4.04	-5.86	-7.96	-7.52	-7.97	-10.27	-9.05	-8.80	-9.86	-12.49	-14.06	-10.85
Third Quartile																				
Enrolled in College																				
High School Graduates	1618	1684	1699	1788	1788	1707	1598	1559	1504	1454	1460	1469	1397	1374	1261	1219	1154	1083	956	951
College Participants	160	190	156	146	153	148	146	114	135	105	108	134	120	90	83	99	102	113	101	104
Enrolled Rate(%)	9.86	11.31	9.20	8.18	8.56	8.67	9.13	7.34	8.95	7.23	7.37	9.13	8.57	6.70	6.62	8.14	8.82	10.48	10.59	10.89
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	+.54	+1.60	-1.20	-1.07	-1.00	-1.82	-2.24	-2.71	-.90	-2.98	-2.66	-.62	-1.49	-1.45	-2.88	-1.04	-.24	-.12	-.84	-2.17
1 to 3 Years College																				
High School Graduates	1618	1684	1699	1788	1788	1707	1598	1559	1504	1454	1460	1469	1397	1374	1261	1219	1154	1083	956	951
College Participants	272	307	324	327	341	315	294	264	301	266	279	264	265	260	234	253	267	249	225	202
1 to 3 Years Rate(%)	16.80	18.22	19.07	18.31	19.10	18.43	18.40	16.95	19.98	18.28	19.09	17.97	19.01	19.34	18.55	20.74	23.10	23.03	23.57	21.23
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-.16	-1.07	-4.11	-1.34	-1.00	-3.73	-1.49	-3.43	-1.73	-4.96	-4.14	-4.17	-1.76	-4.24	-5.87	-2.08	-2.83	-1.42	+.44	-2.38
4 Years or More College																				
High School Graduates	1618	1684	1699	1788	1788	1707	1598	1559	1504	1454	1460	1469	1397	1374	1261	1219	1154	1083	956	951
College Participants	130	172	174	176	146	135	121	113	107	94	95	105	106	95	100	114	85	107	94	82
4 Years + Rate(%)	8.01	10.21	10.23	9.84	8.14	7.93	7.55	7.26	7.11	6.46	6.52	7.17	7.58	7.06	7.96	9.38	7.39	9.84	9.86	8.66
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-7.34	-4.38	-3.99	-3.76	-5.76	-4.33	-7.48	-4.80	-3.90	-4.44	-6.61	-6.36	-5.83	-9.04	-5.31	-4.57	-6.38	-7.97	-7.77	-8.94

Total	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Top Quartile																				
Enrolled In College																				
High School Graduates	1618	1684	1699	1788	1788	1707	1598	1559	1504	1454	1460	1469	1397	1374	1261	1219	1154	1083	956	951
College Participants	151	163	177	165	171	179	182	157	148	148	147	143	141	110	120	112	105	115	109	124
Enrolled Rate(%)	9.32	9.71	10.40	9.25	9.56	10.49	11.37	10.05	9.85	10.21	10.03	9.75	10.06	8.15	9.50	9.18	9.06	10.60	11.43	13.06
1 to 3 Years College																				
High School Graduates	1618	1684	1699	1788	1788	1707	1598	1559	1504	1454	1460	1469	1397	1374	1261	1219	1154	1083	956	951
College Participants	274	325	394	351	359	378	318	318	327	338	339	325	290	318	308	278	299	265	221	225
1 to 3 Years Rate(%)	16.96	19.29	23.18	19.65	20.10	22.16	19.89	20.38	21.71	23.24	23.23	22.14	20.77	23.58	24.42	22.82	25.93	24.45	23.13	23.61
4 Years or More College																				
High School Graduates	1618	1684	1699	1788	1788	1707	1598	1559	1504	1454	1460	1469	1397	1374	1261	1219	1154	1083	956	951
College Participants	248	246	242	243	249	209	240	188	166	158	192	199	187	217	167	170	159	193	169	167
4 Years + Rate(%)	15.35	14.59	14.22	13.60	13.90	12.26	15.03	12.06	11.01	10.90	13.13	13.53	13.41	16.10	13.27	13.95	13.77	17.81	17.63	17.60

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 37
College Enrollment By Institutional Control for Married High School Graduates
Age 18 to 24 by Family Income
1971 to 1979, 1981 to 1986, 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1989
College Enrollment	851	774	706	733	717	698	611	589	540	594	548	451	446	447	448	510
Public College Enrollment	703	643	569	607	600	528	496	481	431	488	455	358	366	365	356	419
Public Share	82.61	83.07	80.59	82.81	83.68	75.64	81.18	81.66	79.81	82.15	83.03	79.38	82.06	81.66	79.46	82.16
Private College Enrollment	148	131	137	126	117	170	115	108	109	106	93	93	80	82	92	91
Private Share	17.39	16.93	19.41	17.19	16.32	24.36	18.82	18.34	20.19	17.85	16.97	20.62	17.94	18.34	20.54	17.84
Family Income Quartiles																
Bottom Quartile																
College Enrollment	313	288	233	232	224	208	193	171	176	195	161	146	137	132	130	164
Public College Enrollment	262	237	186	196	190	152	151	133	136	151	122	109	110	109	94	139
Public Share	83.79	82.32	80.15	84.55	84.67	73.33	78.05	77.77	77.29	77.60	75.80	74.50	80.44	82.21	72.20	84.92
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	+7.97	+2.78	-0.48	+6.45	+1.84	+0.45	-6.97	-3.42	-0.59	-7.18	-8.11	-4.92	-2.68	+0.29	-13.05	+7.51
Private College Enrollment	51	51	46	36	34	55	42	38	40	44	39	37	27	24	36	25
Private Share	16.21	17.68	19.85	15.45	15.33	26.67	21.95	22.23	22.71	22.40	24.20	25.50	19.56	17.79	27.80	15.08
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-7.97	-2.78	+0.48	-6.45	-1.84	-0.45	+6.97	+3.42	+0.59	+7.18	+8.11	+4.92	+2.68	-0.29	+13.05	-7.51

Total	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1989
Second Quartile																
College Enrollment	184	153	162	177	166	163	147	136	111	122	126	105	106	104	112	118
Public College Enrollment	161	135	132	147	137	126	115	113	90	99	110	87	89	87	94	93
Public Share	87.41	88.16	81.83	83.33	82.56	77.61	78.51	83.29	80.95	81.35	87.00	82.86	83.83	83.87	83.54	79.08
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	+11.59	+8.62	+1.20	+5.23	-0.27	+4.73	-6.51	+2.10	+3.07	-3.43	+3.09	+3.44	+0.71	+1.95	-1.71	+1.67
Private College Enrollment	23	18	29	29	29	36	32	23	21	23	16	18	17	17	18	25
Private Share	12.59	11.84	18.17	16.67	17.44	22.39	21.49	16.71	19.05	18.65	13.00	17.14	16.15	16.13	16.47	20.92
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-11.59	-8.62	-1.20	-5.23	+0.27	-4.73	+6.51	-2.10	-3.07	+3.43	-3.09	-3.44	-0.73	-1.95	+1.72	-1.67
Third Quartile																
College Enrollment	190	156	146	153	148	146	114	134	109	134	120	90	83	99	102	104
Public College Enrollment	156	131	117	130	125	117	97	115	93	116	105	75	68	78	80	91
Public Share	81.86	83.48	79.89	84.83	84.48	80.20	84.62	85.50	85.34	86.71	87.54	83.19	80.95	78.31	78.29	86.94
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	+6.04	+3.94	-0.74	+6.73	+1.65	+7.32	-0.40	+4.31	+7.46	+1.93	+3.63	+3.77	-2.17	-3.61	-6.96	+9.53
Private College Enrollment	35	26	29	23	23	29	18	19	16	18	15	15	16	22	22	14
Private Share	18.14	16.52	20.11	15.17	15.52	19.80	15.38	14.50	14.66	13.29	12.46	16.81	19.05	21.69	21.70	13.06
Difference From Top Quartile (%)	-6.04	-3.94	+0.74	-6.73	-1.65	-7.32	+0.40	-4.31	+7.46	-1.93	-3.63	-4.48	+2.17	+3.61	+6.95	-9.53
Top Quartile																
College Enrollment	164	177	165	171	179	182	157	148	145	143	141	110	120	112	105	124
Public College Enrollment	124	141	133	133	148	132	133	120	113	121	118	87	100	92	89	96
Public Share	75.82	79.54	80.63	78.10	82.83	72.88	85.02	81.19	77.88	84.78	83.91	79.42	83.12	81.92	85.25	77.41
Private College Enrollment	40	36	32	37	31	49	23	28	32	22	23	23	20	20	15	28
Private Share	24.18	20.46	19.37	21.90	17.17	27.12	14.98	18.81	22.12	15.22	16.09	20.58	16.88	18.08	14.75	22.59

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 38
College Enrollment By Status for Married (Spouse Present) High School Graduates
Age 18 to 24 By Family Income
1970 to 1989

(Numbers in thousands)

Total	**1970**	**1971**	**1972**	**1973**	**1974**	**1975**	**1976**	**1977**	**1978**	**1979**	**1980**	**1981**	**1982**	**1983**	**1984**	**1985**	**1986**	**1987**	**1988**	**1989**
College Enrollment	728	851	774	706	733	717	698	611	589	540	527	594	548	451	446	447	448	440	389	510
Full Time Enrollment	458	533	477	395	416	409	383	332	316	279	279	319	309	252	244	267	253	221	201	300
Full Time Share	62.91	62.63	61.63	55.95	56.75	57.04	54.87	54.34	53.65	51.67	52.94	53.70	56.39	55.88	54.71	59.73	56.47	50.23	51.67	58.82
Part Time Enrollment	270	318	297	311	317	308	305	279	273	261	248	275	239	199	202	180	195	219	188	210
Part Time Share	37.09	37.37	38.37	44.05	43.25	42.96	44.33	45.66	46.35	48.33	47.06	46.30	43.61	44.12	45.29	40.27	43.53	49.77	48.33	41.18
Family Income Quartiles																				
Bottom Quartile																				
College Enrollment	281	313	288	233	232	224	208	193	171	176	162	195	161	146	137	132	130	113	100	164
Full Time Enrollment	235	253	232	169	174	160	162	138	121	126	115	152	138	114	99	106	96	87	81	129
Full Time Share	83.72	80.86	80.76	72.50	75.16	71.40	77.75	71.51	70.72	71.38	71.18	77.80	85.27	77.76	72.35	80.39	74.16	77.20	81.63	78.67
Part Time Enrollment	46	60	55	64	58	64	46	55	50	50	47	43	24	32	38	26	33	26	18	35
Part Time Share	16.28	19.14	19.24	27.50	24.84	28.60	22.25	28.49	29.28	28.62	28.82	22.20	14.73	22.24	27.65	19.61	25.84	22.80	18.37	21.33
Second Quartile																				
College Enrollment	137	184	153	162	177	166	163	147	136	111	111	122	126	105	106	104	112	101	80	118
Full Time Enrollment	83	106	93	97	108	104	102	91	79	62	63	63	69	62	64	67	80	59	58	74
Full Time Share	60.49	57.47	60.86	59.71	61.11	62.40	62.89	62.26	58.41	55.80	57.09	55.23	54.22	58.74	60.31	65.16	71.34	58.91	72.36	62.47
Part Time Enrollment	54	78	60	65	69	62	60	55	57	49	48	58	58	43	42	36	32	41	22	44
Part Time Share	39.51	42.53	39.14	40.30	38.89	37.60	37.11	37.74	41.59	44.20	42.91	47.77	45.78	41.26	39.69	34.84	28.66	41.09	27.64	37.53

Total	**1970**	**1971**	**1972**	**1973**	**1974**	**1975**	**1976**	**1977**	**1978**	**1979**	**1980**	**1981**	**1982**	**1983**	**1984**	**1985**	**1986**	**1987**	**1988**	**1989**
Third Quartile																				
College Enrollment	160	190	156	146	153	148	146	114	134	109	108	134	120	90	83	99	102	112	100	104
Full Time Enrollment	77	105	79	66	70	68	67	48	64	45	52	58	52	39	40	47	40	42	37	53
Full Time Share	48.02	55.09	50.55	45.06	45.84	45.84	45.69	41.70	47.46	41.93	48.16	43.50	43.44	43.23	48.09	47.51	39.60	37.93	37.26	51.10
Part Time Enrollment	83	85	77	80	83	80	79	67	70	63	56	76	68	51	43	52	127	69	63	51
Part Time Share	51.98	44.91	49.45	54.94	54.16	54.16	54.31	58.30	52.54	58.07	51.84	56.50	56.56	56.77	51.91	52.49	61.50	62.07	62.74	48.90
Top Quartile																				
College Enrollment	151	164	177	165	171	179	182	157	148	145	147	143	141	110	120	112	105	114	109	124
Full Time Enrollment	63	69	72	64	63	78	52	55	52	46	49	45	51	38	41	46	37	32	25	44
Part Time Share	42.09	42.36	40.95	38.65	37.01	43.40	28.88	34.98	35.21	31.88	33.18	31.70	36.19	34.42	34.21	41.14	35.05	27.88	22.45	35.66
Part Time Enrollment	87	94	104	102	108	101	129	102	96	99	98	98	90	72	79	66	68	82	85	80
Part Time Share	57.91	57.64	59.05	61.35	62.99	56.60	71.12	65.02	64.79	68.12	66.82	68.30	63.81	65.58	65.79	58.86	64.95	72.12	77.55	64.34

Source: Current Population Survey, Series P-20.

TABLE 39
Chances for College Degree By Family Income Quartiles for Unmarried 18 to 24 Year Old High School Graduates
1970 to 1989

	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
Bottom Quartile																				
H. S. Graduation Rate	.6162	.6192	.6361	.6429	.6338	.6412	.6412	.6322	.6439	.6383	.6483	.6372	.6312	.6408	.6581	.6672	.6686	.6587	.6421	.6499
College Partic. Rate	.4584	.4688	.4547	.4357	.4398	.4664	.4461	.4596	.4507	.4456	.4211	.4302	.4009	.4156	.3956	.4076	.4203	.4315	.4425	.4468
Chance for College	.282	.290	.289	.280	.278	.299	.286	.291	.290	.284	.273	.274	.253	.266	.260	.272	.281	.284	.284	.290
College Graduation Rate	.231	.207	.220	.220	.229	.186	.297	.249	.197	.272	.213	.228	.277	.215	.282	.252	.205	.117	.190	.215
Chance for Bachelor's	.065	.060	.064	.062	.064	.055	.085	.072	.057	.077	.058	.062	.070	.057	.073	.069	.057	.033	.054	.062
Second Quartile																				
H. S. Graduation Rate	.8380	.8158	.8345	.8425	.8062	.8103	.8393	.8150	.8211	.8087	.8167	.8156	.8252	.8058	.8245	.8260	.8133	.8258	.8378	.8171
College Partic. Rate	.5618	.5656	.5609	.5364	.5245	.5372	.5637	.5357	.5190	.5242	.5353	.5317	.5245	.5234	.5405	.5276	.5434	.5815	.5733	.5640
Chance for College	.471	.461	.468	.452	.423	.435	.473	.437	.426	.424	.437	.434	.433	.422	.446	.436	.442	.480	.480	.461
College Graduation Rate	.205	.257	.184	.285	.218	.171	.238	.234	.191	.236	.232	.243	.198	.252	.237	.280	.232	.235	.240	.269
Chance for Bachelor's	.097	.118	.086	.129	.092	.074	.113	.102	.081	.100	.101	.106	.086	.106	.106	.122	.103	.113	.115	.124
Third Quartile																				
H. S. Graduation Rate	.8974	.8822	.8799	.8965	.8867	.8999	.8877	.8857	.8894	.8938	.8949	.9039	.9008	.8904	.9070	.9028	.9032	.8881	.8956	.8824
College Partic. Rate	.6401	.6243	.6443	.6446	.6007	.6305	.6550	.6038	.6199	.6107	.6339	.6690	.6212	.6280	.6596	.6663	.6497	.6631	.6911	.6748
Chance for College	.574	.551	.567	.578	.533	.567	.581	.535	.551	.546	.567	.605	.560	.559	.598	.602	.587	.589	.619	.596
College Graduation Rate	.260	.259	.299	.357	.423	.326	.290	.278	.380	.320	.340	.449	.360	.374	.424	.364	.372	.475	.419	.459
Chance for Bachelor's	.149	.143	.170	.206	.227	.185	.168	.149	.209	.175	.193	.272	.201	.209	.253	.219	.218	.280	.259	.273
Top Quartile																				
H. S. Graduation Rate	.9308	.9273	.9274	.9243	.9286	.9331	.9354	.9415	.9236	.9222	.9186	.9134	.9350	.9279	.9345	.9428	.9331	.9473	.9420	.9315
College Partic. Rate	.7901	.7656	.7358	.7164	.7406	.7516	.7632	.7640	.7086	.6730	.6863	.6860	.7245	.7376	.7240	.7559	.7730	.7906	.7943	.7824
Chance for College	.735	.710	.682	.662	.688	.701	.714	.719	.654	.621	.630	.627	.677	.684	.677	.713	.721	.749	.748	.729
College Graduation Rate	.537	.555	.586	.494	.524	.578	.542	.502	.523	.501	.462	.638	.694	.662	.707	.850	.814	.582	.816	.679
Chance for Bachelor's	.395	.394	.400	.328	.360	.405	.387	.361	.342	.311	.291	.400	.470	.453	.479	.606	.587	.434	.610	.495

Sources: High School Graduation Rate From Table 2.
College Participation Rate From Table 19.
College Graduation Rate From 1980 High School and Beyond, NCES.

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Appendix 16

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